

Script-m-Scrive™

AMERICAN

by Brandy Ferrell

Exploring America through Cursive
Copywork, Poetry, and Art Study
HALF-A-HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

Script-n-Scribe Americana: Exploring America through Cursive Copywork, Poetry, and Art Study
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Introduction

The pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty can often be lost amidst the more pressing core academic goals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. By incorporating art and poetry study into the basic skill of copywork, this book provides a simple way for integrating the study of beautiful things so that it becomes an integral part of the overall school routine. The copywork in this book includes a gentle introduction to basic English grammar concepts, including sentence parts, types of sentences, and parts of speech.

Building Beyond the Book: Narration, Dictation, and Composition

While the primary goal of this book is to provide picture study prompts and copywork for students to practice penmanship, the book can be used as a framework for building listening, dictation, and narration skills, pursuing oral and written composition, and extending art study, vocabulary, and English grammar lessons.

Poetry. Each poem may be memorized to build the student's repertoire of descriptive styles, techniques, and imagery to use in his/her own writing. Students may practice oral or written narration skills by discussing what they remember from the poem after it has been read aloud (or after they have read it themselves). Students may use the single-page poems as an opportunity for studied dictation, in which students study a line or stanza of the poem and then write it on a separate sheet of paper when the passage is dictated to them. The act of copywork, narration, and studied dictation will also help with memorizing the poem should you wish to do so.

Picture Study. The picture study prompts provide opportunities for oral narration as students describe what they see in the picture, which can also lead into oral composition. Students can compose oral or written stories to describe the picture, including dialogue or other story elements. Feel free to add your own question prompts to further explore each work of art presented. The following questions are provided as ideas for extending each art study:

- What do you think is being said in the picture?
- What do you think was happening before?
- What do you think will happen next?

English Grammar and Vocabulary Study. The English grammar concepts introduced in this book are: parts of speech (nouns, adjectives, prepositions, verbs, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, interjections), sentence parts (phrases, clauses, subjects, predicates), and types of sentences (declarative, interrogative, imperative, declarative). Each picture study introduces an English grammar concept using copywork prompts. Feel free to extend this concept to the poetry selection. For instance, after identifying nouns in the Columbus picture study, students may also want to find the nouns in the corresponding poetry selection. Further, as you come across unknown words, use it as an opportunity to teach dictionary skills while also building your student's vocabulary.

Look closely at this painting called *The Landing of the Pilgrims*, painted by American Painter Henry A. Bacon in 1877. What do you notice first? What else do you see? Can you describe what may be happening?



A preposition relates a noun or pronoun to another word. A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and ends with a noun (the object of the preposition). Trace and write the prepositional phrases. Then search for what each phrase may be describing in the picture.

inside the boat

onto the shore

in the sky

across the sea

against the rock

on their heads

beneath the ship

over her shoulders

on her lap

Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers

by Felicia Dorothea Hemans

The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed;

And the heavy night hung dark,
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the true-hearted, came;
Not with the roll of the stirring drums.
And the trumpet that sings of fame.

Not as the flying come,
In silence, and in fear;
They shook the depths of the desert gloom
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang,
And the stars heard, and the sea;
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free!

The ocean eagle soared
From his nest by the white wave's foam;
And the rocking pines of the forest roared,
This was their welcome home.

There were men with hoary hair
Amidst that pilgrim band:
Why had they come to wither there,
Away from their childhood's land?

There was woman's fearless eye,
Lit by her deep love's truth;
There was manhood's brow, serenely high,
And the fiery heart of youth.

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine!

Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod:
They have left unstained what there they found,
Freedom to worship God.



The Landing of the Pilgrims by Henry A. Bacon [American Painter, 1839-1912]. The painting depicts the legend of the pilgrims stepping onto Plymouth Rock.

"Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers"

by Felicia Dorothea Hemans

The breaking waves dashed high

On a stern and rock-bound coast,

And the woods against a stormy sky

Their giant branches tossed;

And the heavy night hung dark,

The hills and waters o'er,

When a band of exiles moved their bark

On the wild New England shore.