



## Blustery Days + Warm Blankets = BOOKS

Ah, November.

I've been looking forward to some really terrible weather for a long time! It's cold, windy, rainy (if we're lucky), and the days just keep getting shorter and darker. The worse the weather, the better! This gives us an excuse to skip our schoolwork, and instead pull out all our fuzzy blankets, wool socks, warm sweaters, get some hot water or milk going on the stove, mugs at the ready, and nestle ourselves on the couch for a day full of books. In fact, maybe we'll just skip the prep work, stay in our pajamas, and read our books in bed.

All. Day. Long.

Disclaimer: Not all of my kids can handle reading all day long, but some of us sure can! And although this definitely feels like a break from our schoolwork, I know they are still learning, growing, and experiencing life through great literature and beautiful artwork.

Would this work for your family? Of course - as long as you add your own family culture and style to it. Maybe you'll want to use

audio books. Or maybe you want to read aloud to the entire family - even big kids benefit from read-alouds. Have children doodle, paint, crochet, stare out the window, etc. as they listen. Have older children read to younger children. Maybe the kids would like to create their own illustrations to the stories you are reading. Add in some baking somewhere in the day. (Bad weather also equates to baking! Somehow, I know in my heart that math statement is true.) Make a goal of how many pages you want to read as a family track the pages read. Or just track how many books everyone reads - this works MUCH better for elementary age kids and picture books, unless I suppose you really just want to read ALL month long. No judging! I'm down with that!

Speaking of reading all month long, PBS Utah has a [free reading program](#) going on this month that could get you an Adventure Pass, good for free entry into museums and other fun attractions this winter! It's just 20 minutes a day, so not really binge reading, but still good. ;)

And actually, maybe for you, shorter is better. Pull out the blankets for just one hour - a small break in routine for 60 short, comfy minutes may be all your family needs.

The point, of course, is to allow yourself to be flexible. It is to allow yourself time to sit, relax, de-stress, and enjoy those soft, warm, cozy moments of homeschooling freedom and enlightenment. Plus, it can help your children also see the need for rest AND experience the absolute joy of reading.

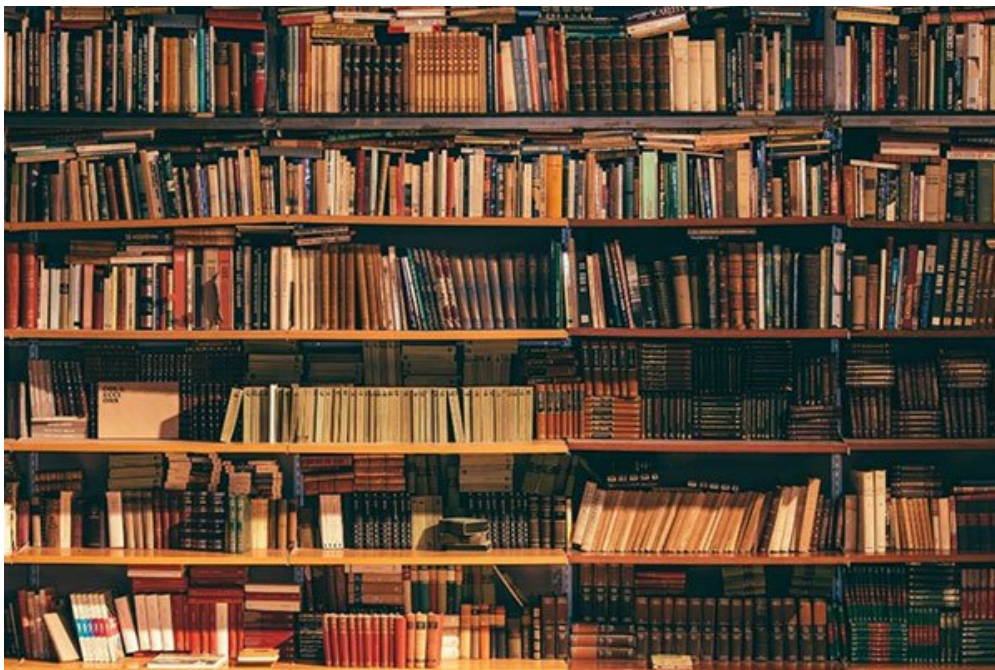
Now about where to find that great literature and beautiful artwork? The Homeschool Hub has a few ideas of where to start searching. (That is our job, right?) Keep scrolling for a list of places to start looking.

And don't feel bad if you need to be flexible and de-stress by getting OUT of the house! Natalie Ockey, of Utah's Adventure Family, has you covered. Be sure to click the link below and check out her guest post on the HHU blog for ideas on how to get out

with the kids, even during these upcoming cold and blustery winter months.

## Book Lists

One book does not fit all. And asking the librarian for book recommendations doesn't always produce great results. (If you've got fabulous librarians nearby, lavish them with praise and gratitude. Great librarians seem to be harder and harder to find.) Below are a few resources for finding high quality books to add to your homeschool experience.



**Reshelving Alexandria** - Isn't that a fabulous name! There is also a collection of associated Facebook groups. Homeschoolers may be especially interested in *The Academy of Reshelving Alexandria* group where members ask for help finding appropriate books by topic/reading level/maturity level. This is a great way to get recommendations and ask for content considerations from other avid readers.

<https://www.reshelvingalexandria.com/>

**The Classical Reader** - The first link will take you to a free searchable database. "This is a parent-approved, classically-vetted list of books to help you and your child read more and search less!" You can also purchase "The Classical Reader" in paperback to keep with you as a reference book and

reading tracker.

<http://www.classicalreader.com/>

<https://classicalacademicpress.com/products/the-classical-reader>

**Libraries of Hope - Well-Educated Heart** - These books are very popular among many homeschoolers, just as the Well-Educated heart philosophy is. If you haven't heard about either yet, it may be worth your while to take a look.

[https://www.librariesofhopestore.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.librariesofhopestore.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

**The Good and The Beautiful book list** - You've probably heard of TGTB by now, our own homegrown Utah curriculum! Did you know you can access their book list? If you are often discouraged or concerned about inappropriate material in your children's books - be it language, violence, spicy romance scenes, rude or crass behavior, or disrespect towards religions, you will probably appreciate the sifting TGTB has already done for you.

<https://goodandbeautifulbooklist.com/>

**Stories of Color Booklists** - While most all booklists pull from a wide variety of authors, cultures, and perspectives, this list, (compiled for Charlotte Mason homeschoolers specifically, but easily utilized by everyone) specializes in multicultural stories and authors. It can be hard to find really excellent books from non-western traditions, so take a minute (or more) to explore these living book lists by culture, world region, form, history cycle, genre, award, and more.

<https://www.storiesofcolor.com/book-lists>

**Life-long Learners** - This is a blog post with LISTS of book lists!

<https://raisinglifelonglearners.com/book-list-for-your-homeschool/>

**Intentional Homeschooling** - The folks at Intentional Homeschooling have created their OWN list of book lists.

<https://www.intentionalhomeschooling.com/ultimate-book-list-guide/>

**Family Devotionals - A Classic Thanksgiving Devotional** - OK, this is NOT a book list, but it is something to read all during the month of November. This printable PDF was compiled by Donna Goff from Mentoring Our Own - another home grown Utah homeschooling resource. For a limited time you can purchase the PDF 25% off. This link will take you to the Mentoring Our Own catalog where the Thanksgiving Devotional PDF is currently first on the list.

<https://mentoringourown.com/catalog/>

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## You Should Still Go Outside

Despite that fact that I've just praised the virtues of staying inside during the cold weather, we all know that for our mental and emotional health - yes, for our

sanity - we are going to need to take those kids outside to play! For that reason, we are so thrilled to have Natalie Ockey, from Utah's Adventure Family, as our guest blog writer this month. Natalie shares with us her [10 favorite ways to get the kids outside](#) learning and playing during Utah's cold, dark winters.



Homeschooling is so very rewarding, but it is also hard. It can be especially hard if you have a child who is learning to manage a disability of some kind. If you've decided your struggling child would benefit from homeschool, but the costs seem overwhelming and the resources seem limited, consider looking into the [Children First Educational Fund](#). Your entire family may qualify for financial support as you decide how, when, where, and with which resources you will educate your family.

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## Mark Your Calendars

The deadline for [MyTechHigh](#) mid-year enrollment applications is November 15th, with the new semester starting January 17th, 2023. Those who have a child already enrolled in MTH can submit applications for siblings of current students through their existing InfoCenter account. New students can apply at [mytechhigh.com/apply](https://mytechhigh.com/apply). MyTechHigh is a popular source of funding for thousands of homeschool families throughout the state. It is not necessary or required, but may be helpful for you if you are struggling to keep up financially with homeschooling.







## November: The Month of Giving Thanks

How has HHU helped you? Tell us your story, invite a friend to subscribe, and enter the raffle!

I'm in!

Do you have a business or organization that serves homeschoolers? Do you want to give back? Here are more ways you can interact with HHU:

- [Advertise in the Marketplace](#)
- [List Your Group](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Volunteer](#)

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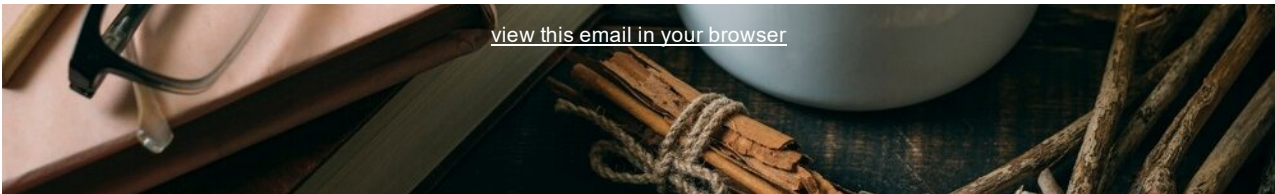
 Forward

"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read."  
—Mary McLeod Bethune

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