

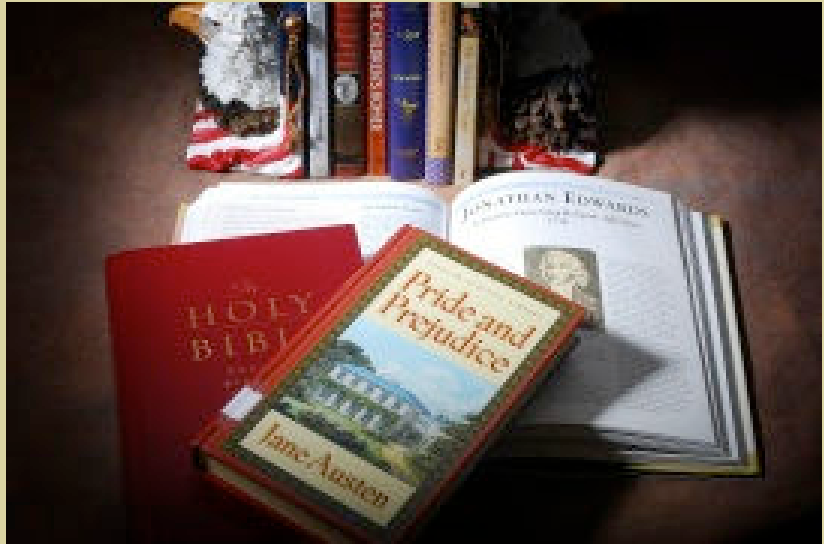
## Instilling a Love for Literature

by Jody Capehart

How do we instill a love of great literature in our children, whether at home, school or in church? Many of us feel burdened by the declining desire in the children of today to want to read.

The Family Research Council reports in one of its excellent publications that the common denominator that makes an excellent school is the level of involvement of the parents. This parental factor is also reflected in a home environment that is conducive to learning. This does not mean that the parents have all the latest technological equipment, but rather, an attitude that supports LEARNING AS A LIFELONG JOURNEY.

Healthy homes, schools and churches that support and stimulate excellence in education provide a learning environment that is conducive to creating a passion for learning. At the core of this are the adults who are committed to spending time reading with children and young people. This passion for the written word is very contagious.



Perhaps we feel a sense of competition with the television, computer programs and other technology distractions of today. These make it hard for us to instill this love of literature in our children. We have to make a conscious effort to carve out time and turn off our cell phones, computers, television etc., and simply read to and with our children.

It was my privilege to attend a L'Abri Conference. What a great experience to *sit at the feet* of many great speakers and learn about LITERATURE. Their eloquent use of the language, passion for literature and of course, that delightful English accent made it a most enjoyable experience.

The logo for the conference was a women holding a child in her lap and reading to the child. Susan Schaeffer said, "*The love of literature begins in a lap.*" Here are a few key points to remember:

- ❖ Love of Literature is first cultivated in the home.
- ❖ Literature begins in the lap.
- ❖ Literature 101: nursery rhymes
- ❖ Literature 201: Holy Scriptures (C.S. Lewis writes "The Bible is the golden strand of the English language.")
- ❖ Leisure is essential and in this day and time, this is a hard commodity to come by. We have to pray for it and prioritize it!



- ❖ Living books are what Charlotte Mason talks about in her writings.

As a mother and a grandmother, here are a few suggestions of things that helped to cultivate a love of literature in my children.

1. Read to and with them daily. Use a variety such as the scriptures, a classical literature book as well as simply some fun books of their choice that you check out from the library.
2. Buy books for special occasions such as:
  - ❖ devotional that is age appropriate for each Christmas
  - ❖ a quality classical hard bound literature book for each birthday
3. Let your children see you read.

LOVERS OF READING MAKE LIFE-LONG READERS.

It is not too late to begin today!