



REVIEWS BY MEREDITH!

ECLECTIC EDUCATION SERIES

"Bring back the good ole days," I find myself thinking sometimes as I pick up new-fangled, fancy curriculum that seems to have more bells and whistles than meat. But, honestly I had very little idea of where to find that curricula. In fact, I had little idea what these textbooks were actually like. That's all changed now because I got to review the Eclectic Education Series.

The Eclectic Education Series (EES) is a set of textbooks that were used in the latter part of the nineteenth century (1800's). Over 10,000 independent school boards across the nation chose to use these textbooks. Some of these textbooks will sound familiar to you, even after they have been out of use for 100 years: Ray's Arithmetic and McGuffey's Readers. All of these textbooks emphasize traditional values, patriotism, and the Bible.

My favorite books were the [Thalheimer's Histories](#). In *General History*, the textbook opens with a discussion of the dispersal at Babel. It was so exciting to see Christ and the Bible honored in all the textbooks! I was so excited to receive the 3 volume set of Oliver Cromwell's speeches and letters. What a blessing! I love original documents and this is a lovely addition to my growing collection!

Good Morals and Gentle Manners was an amazing book. There were two chapters that delighted me: *Duties to God from Scriptures* and *Duties to Man from Scriptures*. Wow! That was in a public school textbook? This book gave so much wisdom on forming godly habits based on Scriptural principles. Also discussed were keeping one's word, guarding the heart, and avoiding evil influences. I think every

Christian should read this book! It was awesome!

The Manual of Methods was a thorough guide on how to teach students to read, write, spell, and grasp the other subjects. Different methods of teaching were discussed and evaluated. I was impressed.

This collection of twaddle-free textbooks is huge! Here is a listing of ALL the textbooks available for your family. You can do an entire K-12 education using this curricula. Just keep in mind: there are no bells and whistles. Students are written to as if they are intelligent and attentive scholars. Yet, nothing seemed too difficult for children to understand. There are just no frills!

Ray's Arithmetic

- Ray's Primary Arithmetic (95 pages)
- Ray's Intellectual Arithmetic (141 pages)
- Ray's New Elementary Arithmetic (192 pages)
- Ray's Rudimentary Arithmetic (193 pages)
- Ray's New Practical Arithmetic (337 pages)
- Ray's New Higher Arithmetic (409 pages)
- Ray's New Elementary Algebra (241 pages)
- Ray's New Higher Algebra (407 pages)
- Ray's Treatise on Geometry and Trigonometry (421 pages)
- Ray's Analytic Geometry (608 pages)
- Ray's Differential and Integral Calculus (442 pages)



Histories

- Thalheimer's Histories (Ancient History, General History, Medieval History, English History, United States History)
- Oliver Cromwell's Histories & Letters (3 Volumes 1,434 pages total)
- Progressive Course in Reading 5 Books (Stories, Studies, Rhymes, Riddles, Information, Literature, Oral Expression)
- Cyclopaedia of Social and Commercial Information (737 pages)
- Andrews Constitution
- American Poems
- Rhetorical Reading
- Good Morals and Gentle Manners

Science

- Norton's Elements of Chemistry (331 pages)
- Norton's Elements of Natural Philosophy (468 pages)
- Norton's Elements of Physics (259 pages)
- Norton's Elements of Astronomy (342 pages)
- Ray's Surveying and Navigation (492 pages)
- Complete Book Keeping (161 pages)
- Schuyler's Principles of Logic (169 pages)
- Introduction to Botany (372 pages)
- Nature Study
- First Year Science (505 pages for High School)
- Political Economy (396 pages)
- Simplified Industrial Mechanics (289)
- Guide to Health

McGuffey's Readers Set

- McGuffey's First Eclectic Read & McGuffey's Primer
- McGuffey's Second Eclectic Reader & McGuffey's Alternative Second Reader
- McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader & McGuffey's Alternative Third Reader
- McGuffey's Fourth Eclectic Reader & McGuffey's Alternative Fourth Reader
- McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader & McGuffey's Alternative Fifth Reader
- McGuffey's Sixth Eclectic Reader
- McGuffey's New High School Reader
- McGuffey's Word List
- McGuffey's Juvenile Speaker

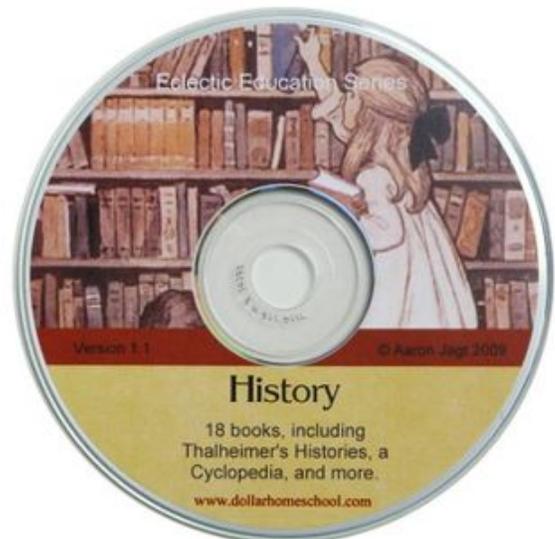
- McGuffey's Eclectic Speller
- McGuffey's Familiar Animals
- McGuffey's Living Creatures
- Heman's Reader for Female Schools

Grammar Set

- Pinneo's Primary Grammar
- Pinneo's Analytical Grammar
- Pinneo's English Teacher
- Pinneo's Composition
- Pinneo's False Syntax
- Harvey's Elementary Grammar
- Harvey's First Lessons in Grammar
- Harvey's English Grammar

Teacher's Books

- Manual of Methods (261 pages)
- Question Book (165 pages)
- Successful Teaching in Rural Schools (294 pages)



Dollar Homeschool wants to make these classic textbooks available to homeschooling families who would like to use them. You can buy a complete set of curricula available on CD for \$159.00. You can also purchase the collections separately on the Dollar Homeschool Website.

Why did the United States of America stop using these textbooks? Well, there was a professor named John Dewey who headed up the Teacher's College of Columbia University. As a humanist, socialist, atheist, and signer of the Humanist Manifesto, Dewey went on a campaign to replace these

textbooks with others more in line with the current trend in public education. It would be a fun research project to compare the textbooks offered by Dollar Homeschool with the textbooks in your local public school. Please let me read it if you do!

If you are interested in twaddle-free textbook learning, consider this set of curricula. If you are interested in having a set of historic textbooks on your computer, this would be worth the price. I am so glad to have this wonderful set of books. Thank you, Dollar Homeschool for a big treat!