



# MY NATURE JOURNAL

*one year of observation*

Created by: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE

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*Dear Reader,*

*There is no "right way" for your child to enjoy this journal. It should not be graded or critiqued, but rather used as a way to capture precious connections.*

*Charlotte Mason, who is quoted throughout this journal, was a British educator who lived during the Victorian era. She believed spending time outdoors was critical for the healthy development of children. Being in nature is good for the mind, body, and soul and encourages excellent habits such as attention, observation, and imagination.*

*I hope this journal encourages all of that, but, above all, helps your child to grow in love for our Creator.*

*Best,  
Cindy Rinna*

*"As soon as a child is old enough, he should keep his own nature notebook for his enjoyment. Every day's walk will give something interesting to add—three squirrels playing in a tree, a bluejay flying across a field, a caterpillar crawling up a bush, a snail eating a cabbage leaf, a spider suddenly dropping from a thread to the ground, where he found ivy and how it was growing and what plants were growing with it, and how ivy manages to climb."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

# TREE OF THE YEAR

*Leaf*

*Seed*

*Common name:*

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*Latin name:*

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*Location:*

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*Flower*

*Bark*

*"Children should also become familiar with trees at an early age.  
...and watch them during the year."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

# TREE OF THE YEAR

*Autumn*

*Winter*

SAMPLE

*Spring*

*Summer*

*"When they are older, they will understand that all science is  
merely a study of God's creation..."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

# AUTUMN

*firsts*

*Mushrooms  
Popping Up*

*Squirrels  
Gathering Nuts*

*Leaves  
Changing Color*

*Leaves Falling*

*"Helicopter" Seeds  
Flying*

*Migrating Birds*

*A Pinecone*

*A Spiderweb*

*A Bare Tree*

*"The habit of storing mental images can't be overrated. It can  
comfort us and refresh us."  
- Charlotte Mason*

# WEATHER

*for a month during autumn*


SAMPLE

*"Those who have...felt soothed by the deliciousness of fresh, cool air often make it a rule never to be indoors when they can be out."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

# LEAVES

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"There are the festive leaves bursting out on all the trees,  
learning the shapes of the leaves, the names of each tree, and  
learning to recognize them by observing differences in them."  
- Charlotte Mason*



LEAVES  
*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"...no intellectual habit is so valuable as that of attention..."*  
*- Charlotte Mason*

# FLOWERS

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"The person who can live upon his own intellectual resources and never  
know a dull hour...is indeed enviable..."*  
- Charlotte Mason

# FLOWERS

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"[Children] should be able to describe the shape, size and placement of their leaves and whether the flowers have a single blossom or a head of them."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

# BIRDS

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"A child who can't tell the difference between a thrush, a swallow, a blackbird or a skylark is as sad as those children who had never seen a bee."*

*- Charlotte Mason*

BIRDS  
*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*“Every youth should know something about...the birds in the air...”*  
– Charlotte Mason

# CREATURES *of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"Live animals are always interesting to children."  
- Charlotte Mason*

# CREATURES

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"All people are supposed to be observers of nature and there's no excuse for living in a world so full of amazing plants and animals and not be interested in them."  
- Charlotte Mason*

# INSECTS & ARACHNIDS

*of autumn*

SAMPLE

*"Children should be encouraged to quietly and patiently watch the  
bee, spider, ant, caterpillar or other wildlife that crosses their path."  
- Charlotte Mason*



# MOON PHASES

*for a month during autumn*


SAMPLE

*"He has an urgent, incessant, irrepressible need for the infinite."  
- Charlotte Mason*



# EXPLORING

*in autumn*

*Location, Date & Details*


SAMPLE

*"The human animal wasn't meant to survive in an artificial environment of walls any more than plants were designed to live in glass houses."*  
- Charlotte Mason