

BEAUTIFUL TEACHING

ONLINE CONFERENCE

NARRATION: THE ART OF LEARNING



ALL SESSIONS ARE RECORDED



"...lay out a liberal field of study and astonishingly fair things will grow in that garden of mind in which we are invited to sow the seeds of all knowledge."

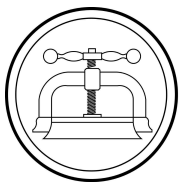
- Charlotte Mason

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Friday Schedule
5-9 pm Central Time

Where there are 2 sessions at the same time, you will choose one to attend. **Come and go as needed! Every session will be recorded.***

| Friday, October 24 5-9 pm Central Time | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------|---|
| TIME CENTRAL TIME ZONE | PRESENTER | TOPIC | PRESENTER | TOPIC |
| 5-5:15 | Adrienne | Welcome | | |
| 5:15-6 | MAIN SESSION: Jason Barney The History and Future of Narration | | | |
| 6:05 - 6:45 | Dr. Robert Terry | Ancient Christian Paideia & Narration | Benjamin Lyda | Narration: The Act of Becoming More Human |
| 6:45-7 | 15 Minute BREAK | | | |
| 7:05-8 | Jason Barney | Narration: What does Modern Research tell us? | Aaron Mitchell | Aristotle: Mimesis, Habit, and Becoming |
| 8:05-9 | Benjamin Lyda | Narration As an Art of Rhetoric | Karen Glass | Narration: Taking up the Torch |

***Come and go as needed! Every session is recorded. Recordings will be accessible till July 1, 2026.**

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| Saturday, October 25 9 am - 4:30 pm | | | | |
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| TIME CENTRAL TIME ZONE | PRESENTER | TOPIC | PRESENTER | TOPIC |
| 9-10 | MAIN SESSION: Adrienne Freas Narration: The Music of the Trivium | | | |
| 10:05-11 | Jonathan Fiore | Integrating Living Books into Upper School History Class | Benjamin Lyda | Narration: The foundation of the Progymnasmata |
| 11-11:15 | 15 Minute BREAK | | | |
| 11:15-12:15 | Peach Smith | Narration for Special Needs | BREAKOUT PRACTICE (Kiernan, Mariah, Dr. Terry) | 3 Break out rooms for practicing Narration K-4, 5-8, 9-12 |
| 12:15-1:15 | 1 Hour BREAK | | | |
| 1:15-2:10 | Mariah Martinez | Troubleshooting, Grading, and Using Rubrics for Narration | Kiernan Fiore | Oral and Written Narration in K-8 Classrooms |
| 2:15-3 | BREAKOUT PRACTICE (Kiernan, Mariah, Dr. Terry) | 3 Break out rooms for practicing Narration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● K-4 ● 5-8 ● 9-12 | | |
| 3:05-3:45 | Adrienne | Narration: Variations & a Fluency Framework | Karen Glass | Transitioning from Oral to Written Narration |
| 3:50-4:30 | Closing Mixer- share reflections Q & A | | | |

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Friday, October 24
5-9 PM CENTRAL

Come and go as needed! Every session is recorded.

MAIN SESSION: Jason Barney "The History and Future of Narration"

In this keynote address Jason Barney will analyze the history of narration as a teaching practice, understood as long form retelling of content presented to the learner. Beginning with antiquity and the rhetorical tradition, Barney will show narration's various goals and methods employed by different great educators of the past, including from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and culminating with Charlotte Mason in the modern era. These detailed uses of narration will provide overarching principles that can then be applied to envision the future of narration in the 21st century classical renewal movement.

Ancient Christian Paideia & Narration

Presenter: Dr. Robert Terry

Story and remembering were essential parts of life and learning in the ancient world and the early church. Narration, or re-telling, was central to the teaching and learning process. We will look particularly at John Chrysostom's treatise on "The Right Way for Parents to Bring up their Children" as a model of how story and narration were to be practiced in the Christian home.

Narration: The Act of Becoming More Human

Presenter: Benjamin Lyda

He who prays is a theologian and a true theologian is he who prays. Prayer is the fulfillment of our calling to be human. Discover how narration teaches the habit of attention and memory, the two prerequisites to prayer that can be learned through practice.

Narration: What Does Modern Research Tell Us?

Presenter: Jason Barney

Narration is an ancient teaching practice, but that does not mean that modern learning science has nothing to say in its support. In this session, Jason Barney will review key research findings from the fields of cognitive psychology and show how they undergird a revival of the practice of narration. In addition, these findings offer important considerations for applying narration in the most effective ways to bring about durable learning.

Aristotle: Mimesis, Habits, & Becoming

Presenter: Aaron Mitchell

In Aristotle's *Poetics*, he claims that the basis of art is imitation. Humans, according to him, have a natural tendency towards acts of imitation as a way of exploring and understanding the world in which they find themselves. Repeated imitation is what forms Habit, which in turn forms us. We learn by repeated doing. Narration could be understood as a particular application of this insight about the connection between learning and becoming. We'll explore Aristotle (and the ideas of a few other interesting characters) in an attempt to unpack the understanding of human nature that lies behind Narration, and in so doing, better understand how to employ it ourselves.

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Narration: The Art of Rhetoric**Presenter: Benjamin Lyda**

Discover how narration is the foundation of all writing and rhetoric.

Narration: Taking Up The Torch**Presenter: Karen Glass**

Narration is so different from typical educational practices that a certain amount of faith is necessary to undertake it. Once undertaken, the best outcomes will only be the result of consistency. We'll examine the minds we know best-our own-to get a firmer grasp on the practice of narration., and we'll go away with a bit more confidence and commitment to narration. Our students will benefit if we have the confidence to let narration develop naturally.

DATE: Saturday, October 25

9 am - 4:30 pm CENTRAL

MAIN SESSION: Narration: The Music of The Trivium**Presenter: Adrienne Freas**

Music has a call and response nature, just as the trivium has a call and response nature. The harmonious nature and intellectual activities of the trivium matter. Understanding the musical modes of the trivium and the art of narration as a unified melodious activity frees both the teacher and the students to engage more deeply with ideas. Discover how narration is the voice of grammar, rhetoric, and dialectics.

Integrating Living Books into Upper School History Class**Presenter: Jonathan Fiore**

History is a living, engaging story from the past - but how do we help students to see this? Join Jonathan Fiore for a journey through the most vivid voices for the past and discover how to make history one of the most engaging parts of a 6th-12th grade curriculum, and in doing so how to integrate history into other subjects across the curriculum.

Narration: The foundation of the Progymnasmata**Presenter: Benjamin Lyda**

Moving from narration to writing is a process that can be taught naturally and simply through application of the ancient exercises called the progymnasmata. No one ever "graduates" from narration; rather narration matures into a unique voice.

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Narration for Special Needs

Presenter: Peach Smith

Explore how narration can be flexibly and compassionately adapted for special needs learners, without sacrificing the beauty and richness of the method. Whether your child has ADHD, dyslexia, speech delays, autism, or other learning differences, this talk will offer practical encouragement and tools to help narration become a joyful, confidence-building part of your homeschool or classroom day.

Oral and Written Narration in K-8 Classrooms

Presenter: Kiernan Fiore

Learn how to make narration the foundational pedagogy for your classroom and allow it to transform your composition curriculum. This session will discuss practical strategies for integrating narration across the curriculum and for developing a writing curriculum that centers on written narrations.

Troubleshooting, Grading, and Using Rubrics for Narration

Presenter: Mariah Martinez

Learn practical strategies for implementing narration in the classroom. This session will cover how to assess both oral and written narrations using rubrics, troubleshoot common challenges, and provide meaningful feedback to help students develop their habit of attention and rhetorical prowess.

Narration: Variations & A Fluency Framework

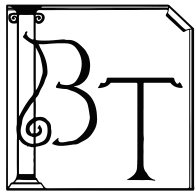
Presenter: Adrienne Freas

Narration has many modes that can and should be practiced at all levels. Discover these variations within a framework that helps students progress from beginner to advanced levels of fluency.

Transitioning from Oral to Written Narration

Presenter: Karen Glass

Students who have practiced oral narration for several years are usually confident and fluent. When they are asked to write their narrations, the result may seem to be disappointing. We'll learn to manage our expectations and give our students room to build the new skill of writing narrations. We'll also look at some strategies for improving written narrations while allowing our students to grow into confident writers.



BEAUTIFUL TEACHING

THE TEAM

Collectively we are experts in the Liberal Arts for both classical homeschooling and classroom instruction. Our experiences range in many classical school models, from classical charters to private Christian schools.

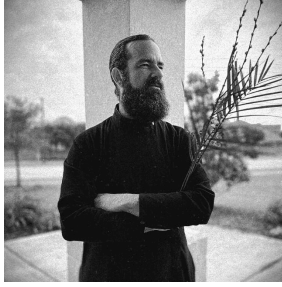


ADRIENNE FREAS is the founder and director of The Classical Education Podcast as well as Beautiful Teaching Consulting. Her expertise is in collaborating and guiding new, and established schools in classical curriculum and professional development needs. She has worked as the Classical Education Advisor for the K-12 Curriculum and Professional Development Project at University of Dallas and served as the Director of Classical Methods for Responsive Education Solutions. She also served as a curriculum and pedagogy specialist for Coram Deo Academies, a university-collaborative model school in DFW. In each role, She led teams creating classical professional development, parent education workshops, and writing customized educational materials that promote a strong virtue-based humanities curriculum for K-12 schools. Adrienne has been married to Brian for 32 years. She is a retired homeschool mother of four adult children and the grandmother to eight (plus a grand-puppy).



KAREN GLASS is an author and a home educator who taught her four children through graduation and spent over two decades delving into educational philosophy, beginning with Charlotte Mason and extending to classical educators throughout history. She has a B.A. in English, but her real education has been self-education, and her passion for education has led her to write several books, including *Mind to Mind* (an abridgement of Charlotte Mason's Philosophy of Education), *Know and Tell: The Art of Narration*, *In Vital Harmony: Charlotte Mason and the Natural Laws of Education*, and *A Thinking Love: Studies in Charlotte Mason's Home Education*. Karen has been consulting and leading online workshops and book studies with Beautiful Teaching for two years. She has also been a regular guest on several episodes of the Classical Education Podcast, produced by Beautiful Teaching.

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BENJAMIN LYDA has been head of a classical charter high school and founder of a Charlotte Mason inspired K-12 school. His more than 20 years of teaching experience is wide and varied including teaching in urban and suburban settings. In addition Benjamin regularly works with both advanced and struggling students in public, private, and homeschool settings. He founded and ran The Children's Shakespeare Academy, directing full productions of the bard's plays for homeschool children 9-18. He holds a Master of Humanities degree from The University of Dallas and is certified by the state of Texas to teach 6-12 grade literature, history, speech communication, special education, and debate. He is the author of Scriptorium – Writing with the Progymnasmata, a 3rd-8th grade curriculum. He is married to his high school sweetheart and together they are bringing up six children.

He is the author of Scriptorium, a classical writing curriculum based on the tradition of the progymnasmata. <https://www.scriptoriumwriting.com/>



Dr. Robert Terry has over twenty years of experience in classical education. He has been a teacher of multiple disciplines, a curriculum designer, and has worked extensively in teacher training and development. He has served as the Curriculum Director and Vice President of Academics at a multi-campus University-model classical Christian school in the Dallas area. While academic head he successfully accomplished two ACCS accreditations. Before discovering classical education, Robert was a CPA. He has also served his school as a Finance Director in the past. Robert holds an MA in Philosophy focusing on the great Christian texts and a Doctorate focused on the work of the Oxford Inklings. He has been married to Elisabeth for twenty-five years and has been active in homeschooling their four grown children.



AARON MITCHELL has been teaching various disciplines in classical schools since 2012. He received his B.A. from Cornell College with a triple major in Classics, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Upon graduation, he began teaching at Great Hearts Academies in Phoenix, AZ. While there, he taught Middle and High School Latin, History, and Music. In 2017, Aaron was privileged to return to St. Peter's Classical School, his High School Alma mater, as a faculty member. During his tenure there he taught Greek, Latin, Literature, and Euclidean Geometry. He has spent the last few years doing curricular development for Math and Classical Language instruction at St. Peter's, particularly focusing on classical language instruction using both inductive and deductive methods, and how an ancient understanding of quantity affects math instruction. He currently teaches Humanities and Euclidean Geometry at Great Hearts Academies. He enjoys reading poetry, playing music with his wife Corrie, and watching their son play youth baseball.

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MARIAH MARTINEZ has worked in education since 2015 as a teacher, curriculum developer, and mentor teacher. Mariah attended the Honors College at Houston Baptist University where she received a B.A., double majoring in Philosophy and English. She later received a master of humanities degree with a concentration in classical education from the University of Dallas in 2021. She is certified as a 7-12 ELAR instructor in the state of Texas. She began her teaching career at a Great Hearts school in San Antonio and now works at a Founders Classical charter school in northeast Texas. She has eight years of middle and high school teaching experience and is a founding faculty member of the high school at her current location where she now serves as the assistant headmaster for the upper school. She has experience not only with developing classical curricula for the high school environment but has also developed guides for creating house systems and student leadership positions. Mariah's goal is to help make the methods of classical education and the philosophies behind them accessible for all - teachers and students alike.



Peach Smith has been a Charlotte Mason classical educator, consultant, and administrator for over three decades. Peach has spoken at conferences, led professional development programs, teacher training programs, workshops, custom created curricula for schools, co-ops, and individuals, and has helped launch classical education programs. Peach's teaching career began in England, and she has taught at numerous classical, faith-based, and Catholic programs, teaching all subjects including history, humanities, arts, sciences, and mathematics. It has been her life-long goal to make Classical education accessible to both struggling and gifted students, as well as to both new and experienced teachers through an understanding of the beauty of integrated learning, the goodness of character and virtue training, and the truth of precise teaching. Peach currently serves as the Curriculum Coordinator, a Lead Teacher, and an Upper School teacher at Koinonia Academy in Plainfield, NJ, and also teaches at Sacred HEART Academy. Peach is married to Dr. Domecq Smith; they are blessed with children who could be home educated, and who are now adults continuing to bring delight to their parents.



KIERNAN & JONATHAN FIORE: THE HOMESCHOOLED CLASSICAL EDUCATORS.

KIERNAN FIORE has worked as a teacher, administrator, trainer, and curriculum developer since 2011. Kiernan was classically home educated using a Charlotte Mason methodology, and her own educational experience is the inspiration for her work. She holds a BA in English from Hillsdale College and an MA in Shakespeare Studies from King's College London and is certified in 4-8th Grade ELAR and Social Studies in Texas. After six years of working with the Founders Classical network of charter schools in Texas, she now serves as Dean of Curriculum at Holy Innocents School in Long Beach, CA. She has been married to Jonathan, also a classical educator, for six years and is the mother of three children.

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JONATHAN FIORE is a veteran classical educator devoted to reinvigorating classical catholic liberal arts education for the poor. He was born in California, grew up in New York, and received a classical liberal arts education at home. He studied history at Hillsdale College, and is currently obtaining his M.A. in Classical Education from the University of Dallas. He currently teaches Western Civilization and Rhetoric at Holy Innocents School in Long Beach, California. In his free time he loves to visit America's beautiful national parks, of which his favorite is Yosemite. He is married to Kiernan, also a classical educator, and together they have three children: Catherine, Francis, and Joseph.

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