

How does Tea time work?

Tea time is more of a heart concept than a specific directive. You can have tea time with apple juice and grapes, or it can be tea in fancy cups and sweets, or iced tea and sandwiches. You can hold your tea time at a coffee table, the dining room table, a picnic or patio table or a blanket in nature. The heart of tea time is a little time out of the busy part of your day to enjoy each other, and a snack and the feast that is a Charlotte Mason Education. Everyone can learn together since these riches span age and education.

Play the composer as you prepare for tea time, and for a few minutes when you call the children to tea. They will usually be wrapped up in the food and quiet. Identify the music and composer for the children when it ends or before you begin. No other work needs to be done on a daily basis, although we will do more when we study composers.

Read some poetry. Days one through three, I assign poems from the poet we are studying. Some days include a little biography about the poet. You will cover most poems three times because sometimes the one we don't appreciate at first reading, later becomes a favorite. The last day or two of the school week has epic poetry-long narrative poems. They are read through with a timer to limit the reading, instead of assignments. We set the timer for differing times based on the Form of the child: Form 1: 5 minutes, Form 2: 10 minutes, Form 3 and 4: 15 minutes.

Then we recite some poetry. Each child will have poems they have learned, and poems they are learning now. I have included a small selection of poems to get them started at the beginning of a term. They are encouraged to choose a poem that they feel drawn to memorize rather than just learn the ones I printed to kickstart recitation. I encourage you to learn poetry and recite with them.

Each tea time will have a little different flavor after these first few steps.

You might have read about the "poetry book" in The Living Page or on a blog. It is simply a journal that each student uses to record particular words, phrases, lines, stanzas, or even an entire poem that speaks to them. For the youngest Form 1A and Form 1 students, the parent might need to take dictation. While we want to be sure to have the child do a bit of the writing on their own, we do not want to handicap them due to their lack of skill in handwriting. Limit this with the timer, just like