

Sample Pages from

Celebrate Thanksgiving

by Charlene Notgrass

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Celebrate Thanksgiving

Design and Content by Charlene Notgrass

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Curriculum That Teaches the Heart, Soul, and Mind

370 South Lowe Avenue, Ste A
PMB 211

Cookeville, Tennessee 38501

1-800-211-8793

www.notgrass.com

books@notgrass.com

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How to Use Celebrate Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving brings to mind Pilgrims and Native Americans, turkey and pumpkin pie, football games and going to Grandma's house — and most importantly, giving thanks to God for His blessings. Why do we celebrate this annual holiday in America? This study explores answers to this question.

What's included in Celebrate Thanksgiving?

- Fifteen lessons of four pages each in which students discover information about Thanksgiving. The lessons explore history, geography, Bible study, art, poetry, grammar, creative writing, character, science, traditions, and thinking skills.
- Craft instructions for seven projects.
- A Thanksgiving scrapbook (the paper in **Celebrate Thanksgiving** is acid-free).

How many copies of Celebrate Thanksgiving do I need for my family?

One per child. Students learn about Thanksgiving as they read and complete activities in the curriculum. They also complete a Thanksgiving scrapbook, which is included at the back of the curriculum.

How long does it take to complete this curriculum?

Each lesson takes about 30 minutes to an hour. Here are three possible schedules:

Complete one lesson per day (Monday through Friday) beginning three full weeks before the week of Thanksgiving. During the week of Thanksgiving, complete craft projects and the scrapbook.

Complete one lesson per day (Monday through Friday) beginning three full weeks before the week of Thanksgiving and do one or two craft projects each week. During the week of Thanksgiving, complete more craft projects and the scrapbook.

Complete one lesson every other day (Monday through Friday) beginning six full weeks before the week of Thanksgiving and do one craft project each week, including the week of Thanksgiving. Complete scrapbook during Thanksgiving weekend.

Note: The heirloom table cloth must be completed during your Thanksgiving celebration. See page 71 for details. Ours is pictured on the back cover.

A Note About the Creative Writing

Children should follow these steps in their creative writing:

1. Write the assignment on regular paper first.
2. Proofread their writing.
3. Ask parents to check their writing.
4. Make corrects or rewrite the assignment, if needed (also followed by proofreading, a parent check, and corrections).
5. Copy their writing into the **Celebrate Thanksgiving** workbook.

How can I make the study even more memorable?

Costumes. Use your imagination to come up with some Pilgrim costumes. You don't have to make anything elaborate. We have found really great costume components at thrift stores. Sew some white ribbon on a white handkerchief and you have an instant bonnet. On the other hand, older children might really enjoy sewing costumes for themselves and their younger siblings. Your children could wear the



costumes on Thanksgiving Day, on some special occasion, or, if it is not too distracting, wear them every day while they study **Celebrate Thanksgiving**.

Make-believe. You can pretend to sail on the *Mayflower*. Write *Mayflower* on a piece of paper and



One year our family had fun making costumes. John, Mary Evelyn, and Bethany wore their costumes to a homeschool Thanksgiving program.

tape it to the headboard of a big bed (or have one of your children draw the *Mayflower* and make a nice poster). Find some good library books about Pilgrims. While you are studying **Celebrate Thanksgiving**, spend some time each day reading on the bed. Explain to your children that the bed is the *Mayflower* and that you are going to experience living in really tight quarters, like the Pilgrims did while on their “ship.” Have your children think about how long the Pilgrims had to travel to get to their new home in America.

More make-believe. Get a blue sheet and a toy plastic boat. Pretend that the boat is the *Mayflower* and it is being tossed by the waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Simply have your family gather around and hold the sheet by the corners and sides. Put the boat in the middle and gently toss it up and down.

I really love Thanksgiving. It has long been a favorite holiday for me. Perhaps one reason is that in 1975 when my husband Ray and I had been married not quite a year, I had to work on the Friday after Thanksgiving. We decided it was too hard to make the drive back home to Tennessee. I called my Mama Sue (my Daddy’s mother) and asked her how to make turkey and dressing. At the ripe old age of 21, I cooked my first turkey. I was hooked! We had a great Thanksgiving with other friends who were away from home and began making our own Thanksgiving traditions. These days we are back in Tennessee and able to have our own traditions and invite our extended family to our house. That’s really special. I love to **Celebrate Thanksgiving!** I hope you enjoy it, too.



Liz and Hannah enjoy their candy and cookie turkeys. See page 68 for directions.

Charlene Notgrass

Learning about Pumpkins

Pumpkin is still an important part of the American Thanksgiving feast. The pumpkin plant is native to North America. These plants are members of the gourd family. They grow on **vines** that produce green **leaves**, large yellow-orange **flowers**, thin green **tendrils**, and pumpkins, which is the fruit of the pumpkin vine. The outside of the pumpkin is called the **shell**. The shell has two parts: the thin outer rind (or skin)

and the thick **pulp**. At the center of the pumpkin is a cavity filled with **seeds** and slimy fibrous strands. People eat both the pulp and the seeds. The pulp has vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants. Pumpkin pulp makes tasty pie, soup, muffins, cookies, and bread. The seeds are high in manganese, magnesium, and phosphorus, and they taste great.



1.

2.

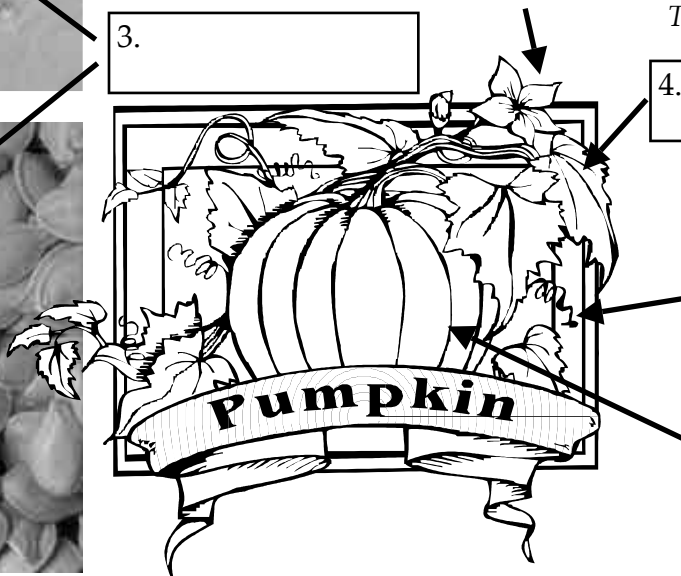
3.

Use the descriptions above to label the parts of a pumpkin. They are printed in **bold**.

4.

5.

6.



Lydia Maria Child Writes a Thanksgiving Favorite



Lydia Maria Child

Lydia Maria Francis was born in 1802 in Medford, Massachusetts. Medford is the fourth oldest English settlement in the United States and one of the towns Paul Revere rode through when he announced that the British were coming during the American Revolution. Maria was taught at home, at a dame school, and at a women's seminary.

When Maria grew up, she wrote the novel **Hobomok** and founded a children's magazine called *Juvenile Miscellany*. She later married David Lee Child and continued to write.

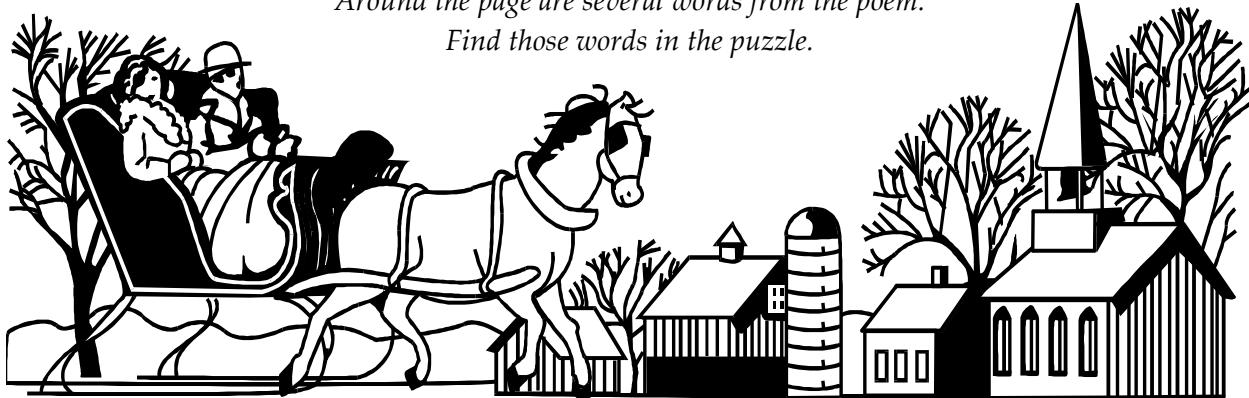
One of the books she wrote was **The Frugal Housewife**, an advice book for women. David and Maria worked in the abolitionist movement. Before the Civil War, abolitionists worked to free African American slaves. Lydia Maria Child also worked to help American women receive the right to vote.

In 1844, Lydia Maria Child published **Flowers for Children**, which included "A Boy's Thanksgiving Day." It has become America's most famous Thanksgiving song.

"A Boy's Thanksgiving Day" is printed on the following page.

Around the page are several words from the poem.

Find those words in the puzzle.



 Grandfather's  play  Thanksgiving  gate  drifted 

house

A Boy's Thanksgiving Day

Hurrah



white



Day



over



Grandmother's



Grandmother's



nose



toes





go

Over the river and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go.
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood —
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground, like a hunting hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barn yard gate.
We seem to go extremely slow,
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood —
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

G	P	T	O	E	S	D	A
R	U	H	U	R	R	A	H
A	M	A	B	B	B	Y	O
N	P	N	T	R	O	T	U
D	K	K	C	C	C	H	S
M	I	S	N	O	W	O	E
O	N	G	A	T	E	U	D
T	R	I	V	E	R	N	E
H	O	V	E	R	F	D	F
E	G	I	W	H	I	T	E
R	C	N	O	S	E	H	H
S	A	G	O	I	F	I	F
G	P	U	D	D	I	N	G
R	J	L	J	P	J	L	J
A	B	E	L	L	S	K	K
N	A	L	L	L	L	L	L
D	R	I	F	T	E	D	S
F	N	M	M	M	M	M	T
A	N	P	L	A	Y	N	I
T	Q	A	W	Q	A	W	N
H	O	R	S	E	H	H	G
E	V	B	N	V	B	N	S
R	C	V	B	C	V	B	C
S	L	E	I	G	H	Y	U
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I



bells



hound



pudding



cap



pumpkin



trot



barn

 stings  horse  sleigh  snow  wood  river 

Lesson 11 — History, Bible Study, Creative Writing, Puzzle

Room for All at Our Table of Thanksgiving

Everyone in the world is an immigrant or the descendant of an immigrant. First, God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and later He scattered many people at the Tower of Babel. In Acts 17:26 Paul told people in Athens, Greece, that God “...made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation...”

James, John, Joseph, and Fletcher Harper were publishers during the 1800s. Harper and Brothers began publishing magazines, such as **Harper's New Monthly**



This illustration from the November 20, 1869 issue of Harper's Weekly depicts men, women, and children from many nations. Uncle Sam is carving a turkey. The centerpiece states "Self-Government; Universal Suffrage." The artist is Thomas Nast, whose drawing of Santa Claus has been a major influence on the American celebration of Christmas.



CASTLE GARDEN—THEIR FIRST THANKSGIVING DINNER.—DRAWN BY ST. JOHN HARPER.

This illustration from the November 29, 1884 issue of Harper's Weekly is entitled, "Castle Garden — Their First Thanksgiving Dinner." Castle Garden was the first stop for immigrants coming into New York City before Ellis Island was built in 1892. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Magazine (1850, pictured on page 41), **Harper's Weekly** (1857), and **Harper's Bazar** (1867, William Randolph Hearst later bought this periodical and added another "a" to Bazar). **Harper's Weekly** helped readers consider the plight of immigrants. Note the illustrations on these two pages. Today many Americans reach out to homeless people and others in need on Thanksgiving Day by providing them with a special Thanksgiving meal.

Copy Matthew 25:35.