

## **GENERAL RESOURCES by Bonnie Landry (links in red)**

[WEBSITE](#)

[BLOG](#)

### **Facebook Pages:**

[Homeschool Moms Who Drink Wine  
Make Joy Normal](#)

**Bishop Robert Barron video on youtube:** [Seven Deadly Sins; Seven Lively Virtues  
Family Purpose Statement](#)

### **Some relevant blog posts:**

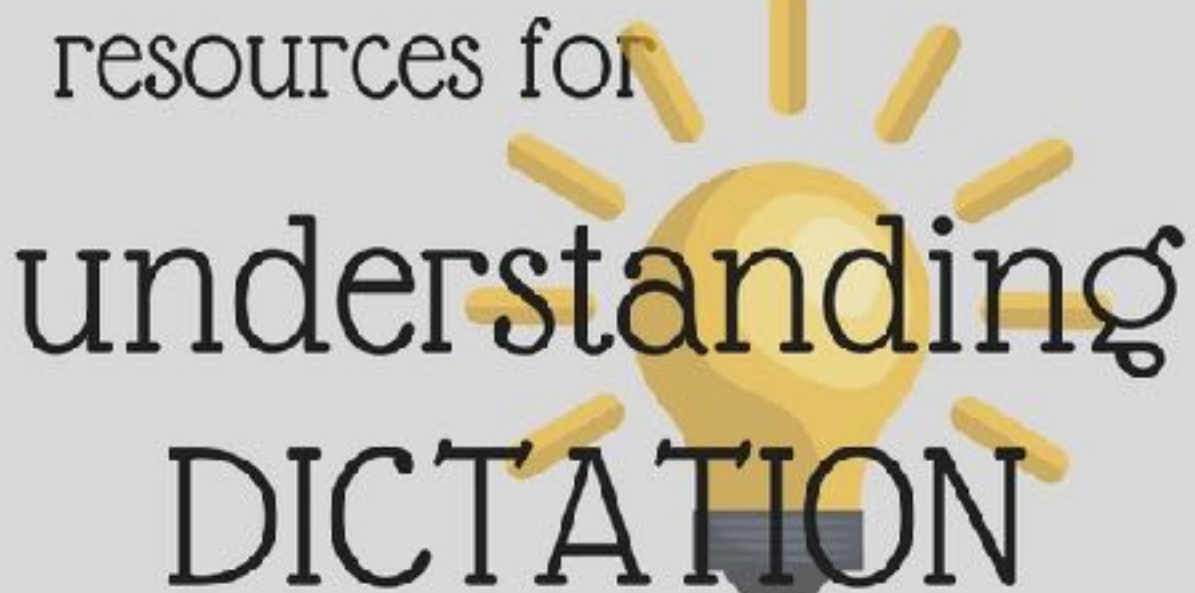
[Comparing two books on household order  
Just cooperate, kid  
Carrots and Sticks.  
Securing Cooperation](#)

### **Books on Discipleship and Relationship**

[Catholic Attachment Parenting](#)  
[Hold Onto To Your Kids by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate](#)  
[Discipline Without Distress by Judy Arnall](#)  
[Revolution of Mercy by Bonnie Landry](#)

### **Simplifying Education**

[Homeschooling, simplified series](#)  
[Homeschooling with JOY online workshop.](#)  
(coupon code for conference: HOUSTONJOY, \$35 discount)



resources for  
understanding  
DICTATION

- what it is
- Benefits of dictation
- what can be learned from dictation
- what it looks like (hint: cozy)
- why it's so important

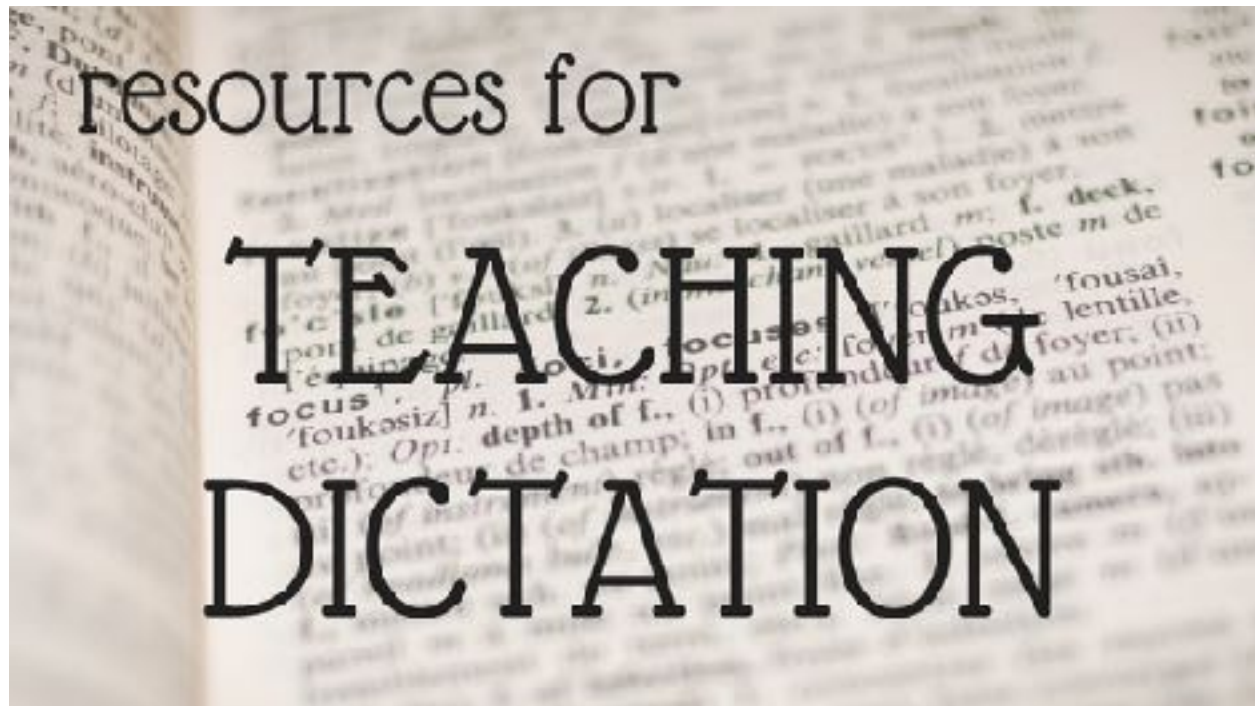
[Dictation for newbies](#)

[How dictation works](#)

[Dictation, continued](#)

[Dictation and language mastery](#)

Everything in red will link you to an article, or the product mentioned. *I only recommend products that I use and love. Or that I wrote...*



## DICTATION RESOURCES FOR TEACHING:

*These resources are intended to help parents explain and understand aspects of language arts more clearly, in the context of dictation.*

[Homeschooling, simplified: Dictation](#)

by Bonnie Landry, outlines principals of learning all language arts in a simple and short daily lesson. This book lays the foundation for writing and exceptional literacy.

[The Three R's](#) by Ruth Beechik

[Teaching the Classics](#) by Adam and Missy Andrews

The Elements of Style by Strunk and White

[Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization](#)

(this is a sample page, and contains one of the best essays I've ever read on the advantages memorizing poetry)

by Andrew Pudewa (IEW)

The entire book/dvd is for the above sample available here:  
[Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization](#)

#### GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION AND USAGE GUIDES:

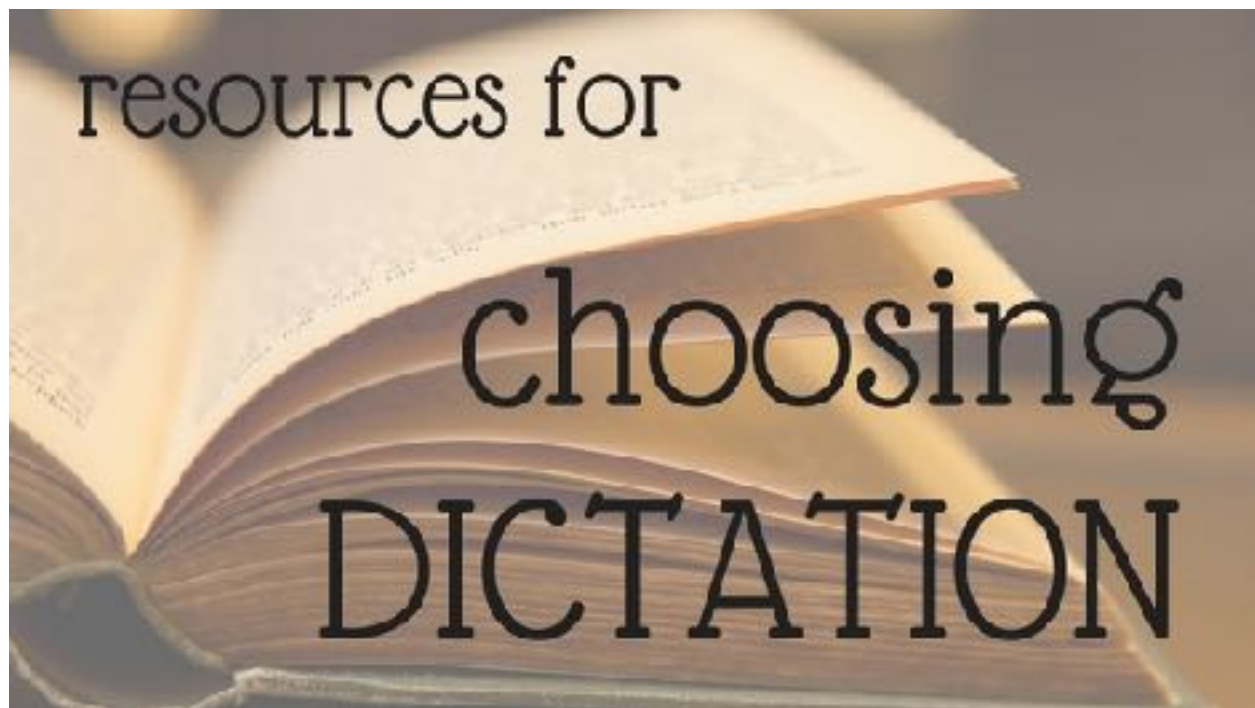
*Most of us don't remember a lot of what we learned in school. Have some help beside you when you are doing dictation with your children, so that you can both learn and explain when an author used a particular type of punctuation, or whether a word is a verb, adverb, noun...or? When to capitalize, use a hyphen and many other aspects of language that will come up daily in dictation!*

#### [my pinterest board](#)

(lots of free printables by creative people, *not me* - you can print them out and keep them in a binder beside your cozy dictation spot - grammar, parts of speech, punctuation... anything you need!)

#### [The Usborne Illustrated Grammar and Punctuation](#)

(a great guide to have beside you during dictation to be able to understand and explain the aspects of language, fun to read!)



RESOURCES TO CHOOSE SELECTIONS FOR DICTATION:  
*You can use almost anything for dictation, the following list includes the books and ideas we've used over the years.*

[Good literature guides](#)

[Our favourite nursery rhyme book](#)

[Quotes \(here's a good site\).](#) ADD SAINT QUOTES

[The Harp and Laurel Wreath](#)

(selections from many classic books and poetry)

[Favorite Poems Old and New](#) (this book has been our BEST and most used resource for dictation, poems are all for kids of all ages, and organized thematically, animals, family, bugs, seasons...SO helpful)

Scriptural passages, parables and stories

Fables ([here's our favourite](#))  
Eyewitness books, all topics

### **Father Spitzer's Ten Short Awesome Prayers:**

#### **1. "Help!"**

Never underestimate for a moment how much God wants to hear that prayer. We often forget because we think it's too easy or that God wouldn't respond to something so simple. But Jesus taught us to call God Abba – my affectionate, caring father, or more colloquially, "Daddy." He responds to our cries for help, just like parents respond to their children.

#### **2. The Hail Mary.**

I don't know why this is so, but if you say the Hail Mary, you will have instant consolation. I used to try to figure this out intellectually, but I have to admit that I don't know why it's true – it just is. My father, who was not a Catholic, saw action in World War II, and he told me, "Whenever the bombs started flying, and people were diving for cover and thinking they were about to die, the one thing that brought me consolation was hearing those Catholic boys saying, 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee ...'"

#### **3. "Lord, make good come out of this suffering."**

Sometimes, suffering has neither speedy relief nor obvious meaning. I first became aware of my serious eye problem, retinitis pigmentosa, six months before my ordination. I was completely baffled, but I knew God's providential love would be operative through this challenge throughout my life. I began to pray, "Don't waste one scintilla of this suffering. Make some good come of it." The Lord answered that prayer by deepening my gratitude for what I do have and my understanding of what matters and what doesn't. He helped me to see that every moment counts in manifesting His love and presence, and gave me a deep appreciation for the Beatitudes. I frankly cannot imagine what my priesthood and apostolic zeal would be like without my little challenge.

#### **4. Offer it up.**

When I was a child, I would complain to my mother about various things, and she would say matter-of-factly, "Offer it up." My general reaction was, "I'm always offering it up, and no good seems to come from it." It only occurred to me years later that the offering was not intended to be a direct benefit to me, but rather a benefit for the world to enhance the efficacy of my life and benefit me indirectly in the most important ways. One of the great mysteries of Christian life is that our suffering can, with Christ's suffering, help in the redemption of others.

#### **5. "I give up, Lord. You take care of it."**

I discovered this prayer while studying in Rome, taking a class taught in Italian, a language I didn't know well then. The professor spoke Italian faster than the Italians – with a Spanish accent! I was sure I'd flunk the course, but in desperation I finally prayed, "I give up, Lord. You take care of it!" All the pressure I'd placed on myself was relieved by giving the problem over to the Lord, Who could make some good come out of my predicament. I became content with understanding my professor only partially, and I eventually started to understand him better. On the exam, I got to select which questions to answer and chose ones that pertained to the last parts of the course, thereby hiding my earlier confusion. I did quite well, thanks to the composure that came from trusting the Lord of love.

#### **6. Lord, I accept your forgiveness.**

When I was in the novitiate, I slipped into the habit of not quite believing that God had forgiven me for my sins. I had a sneaking hunch that He was saying, "I wish I could forgive you, but you have far to go before you are perfect enough to be forgiven." This was the worst possible spiritual attitude, for I had conditioned God's forgiveness on being "good enough," yet I'd never be "good enough" without God's forgiveness and healing! Fortunately, my novice master recognized the insanity of my position. He gave me advice I've followed throughout my life: "When you ask for forgiveness, turn to God with the heart of a child who trusts unconditionally in his parents, and say, 'I accept Your forgiveness.'"

#### **7. "Make good come out of whatever harm I might have caused."**

If we harm someone intentionally, we need to ask that person for forgiveness. But in trying to clear up harms and possible harms, we often find ourselves powerless. Sometimes, I give advice that I think will be quite fruitful, only to realize at 3:00 in the morning that I might have really blown it. At such times, when I pray this prayer with confidence and trust, I can sense the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of the people I might have harmed. My confidence is often confirmed when the "victim" comes up to

me days later and says, "Fr. Spitzer, when you said X I really took it the wrong way. But the next day I woke up and got a very different insight into what you meant."

### **8. "Lord, you are the just Judge. You take care of it."**

I discovered this prayer after I had written a philosophical paper, and a colleague who didn't criticize it or ask questions when I read it publicly later criticized the paper behind my back and tried to damage my reputation. I addressed the criticism in writing, but my anger continued to grow. Every time I opened my breviary, I saw this person's face suddenly appear. I tried handling it on my own ("I'm going to stop thinking about this and forgive this person from my heart"), but this solo approach didn't work. Finally it struck me, "Why not let God help?" I said this prayer, and an unbelievable peace came over me. The immense reconciling love of the Holy Spirit cannot be underestimated.

### **9. Prayer for enemies.**

Throughout my career, I've seen how personal conflicts can intensify in emotion when people continue to think the worst about one another. When this happens to me, I begin my campaign to pray for those who are angry at me or who may be trying to harm me. At least three times a day, I ask that the Lord enter their hearts, show them His love, and bring them to Himself. The response is absolutely remarkable. A great majority of the time, the person for whom I was praying will show a marked decrease in hostility within days. He'll approach me and say, "I don't disagree with you as much as I thought I did. Maybe you're not such a rotten punk after all!"

### **10. "Thy will be done."**

Without a doubt, this is the most important prayer of all. Jesus teaches us this prayer in the Our Father and uses it Himself at the Agony in the Garden. It is the centerpiece of the Christian spiritual life and can be used in times of fear, temptation, anger, and trial. Indeed, it can be substituted for all the prayer listed above. Why? Because the will of God is optimally loving, optimally good, optimally just, and optimally salvific; and when the will of God is working through you, you become an instrument of His optimally loving, good, just, and salvific will in the world. There could be no more worthy a purpose for living than this.



# you CAN transcend the "tyranny of the urgent"

*a simple daily sorting exercise*

[www.practicingmammal.com](http://www.practicingmammal.com)

URGENT and  
IMPORTANT

crises  
filling children's tanks  
medical emergencies  
potty

*manage now*

NOT URGENT and  
IMPORTANT

family relationships  
education  
household  
filling children's tanks

*plan, strategize*

URGENT and  
NOT IMPORTANT

phone calls  
emails  
other people's business  
outside interruptions

*limit, be intentional*

NOT URGENT and  
NOT IMPORTANT

social media  
television  
excessive recreation

*limit, be cautious*

a sorting exercise by Stephen Covey