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How can you know when you have succeeded in teaching your child English? When I was homeschooling, I was SO stressed about literature analysis. It seemed like we constantly failed at reading comprehension and the review questions that were provided. I knew that I wanted my kids to LOVE reading, yet I was still stressed about literature analysis. Every year, I spent a huge amount of time investigating Progeny Press, Learning Language Arts Through Literature, as well as other curriculum options. Why was I failing? Why couldn't I teach literary analysis??? Every time I asked my kids "How did you like the book? " all I ever got was "It was great mom - where's the next one? " When I read aloud to them, they would laugh at the humorous areas, and also ask me to read more (or faster!)#) at the exciting parts. Still, we never really had a good dialogue about the deeper meanings of the literature we read.

Last summer, when the kids arrived home from their first year in college, I felt like I could finally say I had succeeded in my goal of teaching them to love literature. "For fun" they went to the library to get some reading material. My son Alex read what seemed to be the whole Shakespeare cannon; my son Kevin read C. S. Lewis plus some Dostoevsky.

In the Spring of their Sophomore year, I had a further piece of evidence indicating that I had, in fact, been successful. My younger son started a Jane Austen Club at college. That spring he organized the "Pemberly Ball" at the college, complete with period costumes, decorations, and food of the era. It was a big achievement! My sons both LOVE the Jane Austen books and movies, and they loved the Jane Austen inspired Pemberly Ball.

How can you teach a love for literature? All that is required is to feed them great books! I may have been stressed out when they were in high school, however I can truthfully say that I achieved my goal: my boys LOVE literature. Yippee! I win.

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Antony M - About Author:
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