

# A Closer Look

Get an In-Depth Look at Homeschool Curriculum and Resources Reviewed by Homeschoolers Just Like You!

**Resource:** Science 3 Homeschool Kit  
**Publisher:** Nancy Larson Publishers  
**Author:** Nancy Larson  
**Recommended for** Ages 8–11  
**Web Site:** www.NancyLarson.com  
**Telephone:** 860-434-0800  
**Retail Price:** \$225.00  
**Reviewed by** Christa Sterken

Wow! When we first received this kit in the mail, my kids were ecstatic. Their hands reached right past the books and into the supply kit. The Science 3 Homeschool Kit from Nancy Larson Publishers made a great first impression that remained good throughout the review.



The kit covers major topics including astronomy, meteorology, chemistry, physics, geology, botany, and zoology. It includes everything you need to teach your children, right from the package. A nice spiral-bound teacher's manual is laid out in a useful manner. Every lesson has a clear dialogue you may use, requiring no prior science knowledge for the parent. Questions are there to ask the students, which I found helpful. The prep work for each lesson is very minimal. The teacher's manual identifies what you need from the kit, things you might need from home (pencils, etc.), and ideas to be aware of before you start the day.

There is also a book of student materials, which had a feature I liked of the pages tearing off the top like a notepad. This pad covers things like data recording, experiments, reviews, and assessments. Each of the 80

lessons has the accompanying papers ready to go. There is a booklet for each of the scientific topics included as well.

For a parent, these things all make the teaching easy—but the real fun was in the supply kit. Immediately one child shouted out that it was 73 degrees in the box! She had found the thermometers. There are beakers, tadpole-frog models, large full-color glossy posters of great quality, photo cards, and miscellaneous things to complete the experiments. The kit included two field guides with color pictures for reptiles and amphibians. The greatest hit of the kit was the rock specimens, neatly labeled (for now anyway!) in a divided box. My kids love rocks, so this was very exciting. All of the supplies were good quality.

One important thing to note: Our family teaches science from a creation worldview. This kit does not give credit to God, nor mention Him, which was the one downside. We didn't note any offensive statements, though. The approach was general and well laid-out.

Nancy Larson is the writer of the popular Saxon math programs who decided to branch out into science. Visit [www.NancyLarson.com](http://www.NancyLarson.com) to learn more. 🙏

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**Resource:** One Year Adventure Novel  
**Publisher:** Clear Water Press  
**Author:** Daniel Schwabauer M. A.  
**Recommended for** Grades 6–10  
**Web Site:** www.OneYearNovel.com  
**Telephone:** 1-888-481-4550  
**Retail Price:** \$199.00  
**Reviewed by** Lisa Lewis

Storytelling is one of the most powerful means of communication, so comprehending the art of literary structure is vital for the homeschool student. The One Year Adventure Novel is an effective high-school curriculum that teaches students how to understand the basic novel. This fun course allows students to recognize the different parts of literature through writing their own

story.

The One Year Adventure Novel explains the three-act story outline from the inciting incident to the conclusion.

Focusing on literary analysis, it teaches a student how to create real characters, such as heroes and villains, mentors and loves, each with a dynamic personality. As they proceed through the course, students will quickly learn to understand a story's synopsis and to identify a story's conflicts. Students will also examine pieces of literature by distinguished authors such as Mark Twain and Charles Dickens.

The One Year Adventure Novel includes seventy-eight video lessons on seven DVDs, a textbook, a workbook, and a resource CD. An informative teacher's guide makes the lessons easily explainable to students or enables self-teaching for the independent learner. The teacher's guide also provides useful advice on proper analysis and feedback to help bring out the best in your child's writing.

The textbook and the accompanying individual workbook lessons can be completed in one school year, but they are set at an individual pace to best fit each student's needs. The guided grading system makes it easy for parents to grade their child's writing, even if they themselves are not skilled authors. The One Year Adventure Novel also comes with a free copy of the intriguing story *The Prisoner of Zenda* by Anthony Hope.

For a student who is interested in writing, film, or journalism, the One Year Adventure Novel will allow better understanding of the narrative classics through the creating of one's own novel. For an exciting journey to better writing, try the One Year Adventure Novel! 🙏

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**Resource:** Busy Body Book Wall Calendar  
**Publisher:** About Your Time  
**Recommended for** Families  
**Web Site:** www.BusyBodyBook.com  
**Telephone:** 646-232-3212  
**Retail Price:** \$14.95  
**Reviewed by** Sheryl Hurlin

Do you have a large family with busy schedules? Are you tired of trying to fit all those commitments on a standard calendar? Then the Busy Body Book Wall Calendar may be your solution.

With a seven-column weekly grid calendar, each member of the family has his or her own column to list daily appointments and plans. Now you can see family sched-