



THE MASTER'S STUDY

Dialectic School Readiness Checklist

As parents prepare their students for Dialectic, the following guidelines should be considered. The following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have or be in the process of mastering in order to receive the greatest benefit at The Master's Study. This list is not intended to be a checklist to determine eligibility, but rather a preparedness yardstick for the parent/teacher at home to use within in the home school setting.

READING

- Reading literature aimed at 13-15 year olds
 - TMS suggests having students read aloud periodically to assess a student's reading level & comprehension
 - "The Hobbit by Tolkein
 - Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
 - Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
 - Consider any of the titles on the assigned TMS booklist for the upcoming year
 - Students should be able to read uninterrupted for at least an hour each day.
 - Students should be able to read and comprehend a book that is more informative/academic in nature, in addition to leisure reading.
 - Student should be able and willing to read a book that is a bit beyond his comfortable reading level.
- Can use self-induced strategies to determine the meaning of a word when unknown yet presented in context in a reading text. This includes recognition of words with multiple meanings, antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, and root words.
- Can read and make predictions.
- Can recognize main idea and corresponding supporting ideas in a paragraph, chapter, and work in its entirety
- Can identify plot, setting, characters, conflict, climax and type of genre.
- Should be familiar with terms such as: symbolism, theme and characterization, and with some prompting, should be able to find examples of such within a text.
- Can read for content and comprehension, as well as identify, with some prompting, the author's intent and messages which may be present in the literature.

WRITING

- Can write a narrative/fable⁽¹⁾ independently.
 - Of course, this assumes that mom edits and offers feedback.
 - Student incorporates teacher's/mom's comments as he/she rewrites her work.
- Can complete a chreia⁽²⁾ with some assistance.
 - Student may need help with converse, analogy, and testimony (finding the right quote).
- Can independently write a solid five paragraph essay.
 - Without prompting, the student should be able to write the essay in standard format (indenting, correct punctuation, etc)



- Students should be able to identify parts within a story that will help them specifically answer an essay question.
- Should recognize and correctly use basic parts of speech
 - subject & verb with agreement/ verb tense agreement within a paragraph
 - noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, objects, prepositions
 - Should be able to utilize prepositional phrases and adverbs as transitional elements within a paper.
 - Evidence of this skill should be visible in writing
- Should be able to use a dictionary (print or on-line) to look up words that he/she cannot spell correctly.
- Should be able to use a thesaurus (print or on-line) to look up words to vary his/her vocabulary within a written assignment.
- Student should have basic proofreading skills to correct a first draft of his/her Progym or other writing.
 - While not expected to catch all mistakes, he/she should recognize and correct some of them.
- Presents writing using appropriate conventions of capitalization and punctuation.

The Master's Study uses the progymnasmata approach to writing. When evaluating a student's ability and readiness for progym elements, please consider visiting the following: www.classicalcomposition.com

(1) For details specific to the fable/narrative, visit

<http://classicalcomposition.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Fable%20Preview.pdf>

(2) For details specific to the chreia, visit

<http://classicalcomposition.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Chreia-Maxim-Preview.pdf>

SPEAKING AND LISTENING/CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Can speak fluently and audibly with appropriate volume, gestures and eye contact
- Uses age appropriate vocabulary
- As he/she will be participating in a Socratic circle discussion, student will
 - Present his/her opinions willingly within the circle
 - Take notes when participating in outer circle
 - Encourage others to give their thoughts about a given topic
 - Listen to others well and carefully and be able to respond
- Participates willingly and appropriately in guided group discussion
- Be able to discern what comments are on-topic during a class discussion and be able to hold off-topic comments until an appropriate time.

BASIC STUDY SKILLS

- Student has the ability to work independently for an hour at a time.
- Student has the ability to copy information down from another source: a chalkboard, a book, an overhead, etc.
 - Student takes notes within class as a discussion takes place (jotting down a basic list of ideas presented).



- Student understands the use of a Table of Contents and Index.
- Student can use the dictionary and thesaurus well.
- Student knows how to organize his/her folder or notebook as directed (i.e. tabs for each subject and assignments/notes placed under appropriate tabs.)
- Student takes responsibility for writing down his/her assignments, preparing his/her work for class and organizing it in order to be prepared for Monday's classes.
- Student should become familiarized with Bravelo.
 - Be able to look up and print out assignments.
 - Be able to check and respond on message boards.
- Students should have mastered basic keyboarding skills.