

cardboard, blutac coloured card, tin foil etc. to the Lego where this helped (e.g. where items had to have titles written over them or had to be adorned with gold) and a plastic dinosaur made an excellent Diabolus. Bunyan did not write the book with an eye to such an activity, of course, and so he often suddenly introduces a new feature to the town which requires the modeller to make extensive alterations. This made Lego a good medium – cardboard would have been impossible. The whole thing was quite a success and I think we could have managed to keep it going right to the end of the book but unfortunately it was difficult to find anywhere to put the thing (it ended up quite large) where it would not trip one up or get knocked over between episodes. In the end this got us down to such an extent that we took it to bits before finishing the book.

We also read Shakespeare's *Henry V* and other plays from Arthur's Mee's edition (on this CD) together sharing out the parts. I have included Arthur Mee's versions of Shakespeare plays complete on this CD and the previous one. I do not think that you will want to go through all the plays but having them all gives you the choice. Be aware that (in my experience anyway) boys prefer different plays to girls. *Henry V* goes down well with boys, who do not enjoy *Romeo and Juliet*.

This year he read H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*, John Buchan's *The Magic Walking Stick* and Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer* (and a huge amount of other material) himself. Later I also read aloud Vivien Fuchs's and Edmund Hillary's *The Crossing of Antarctica*, George Borrow's *The Bible In Spain*, J. B. Priestley's *Let the People Sing* and Gerald Durrell's *The Drunken Forest* all of which required "editing" especially the last two. For older children Thomas Sowell's *Basic Economics* is very useful especially to anyone interested in history or current affairs.

A final selection of *Ten Minutes a Day* English exercises is included on this CD as well as a few comprehension exercises and a couple of exercises on common mistakes. P.S. Morrell *Secondary Certificate English*⁴ (Nelson, 1964 – widely available second hand) is good follow on material after the *Mothers' Companion* English materials and it has a book list (use with caution) – something I am often asked for. After that you can choose textbooks specifically designed for whatever English exams you are heading for. *English through Hymns* (included on this CD) would also make good follow on material.

The history material on this CD deals with Ireland. We concentrated on Irish history this year purely because we had the opportunity to take a holiday in Ireland in the summer. We felt we did not want to go there without knowing anything about history of the place. The history notes (on earlier CDs in the *Mothers' Companion* series) hardly touch on Ireland so I thought this would be a good opportunity to look at this topic. I set off with great gusto – little realising what a large and difficult task it would prove to be. Since the Irish history was designed to be read to an older child the style is more adult than that of *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation*. I read it aloud chapter by chapter and we spent quite some time discussing the topics involved. I did not produce any written worksheets to fill in apart from the one about St. Patrick based on *The Real Saint Patrick* by J. M. Holmes, (Antrim, 2002) – a book which is well worth reading even if you do not study Irish History this year. I hope that the whole topic will be of interest to *Mothers' Companion* users whether or not you ever visit Ireland.

This year's maths will be found on earlier CDs – probably CD6. After that you should be ready for an O level, IGCSE or GCSE course which could take from two to four years.

The Music Course and the Exercises on Hymns carry on from those on the previous CD.

The Latin materials on this CD complete Mrs. Mortimer's *Latin without Tears*. No recording of the lessons is provided this year as pronunciation should be well established by now through using the

4 Not included on this CD for copyright and other reasons.