



# ANDREW PUDEWA

## EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER

Andrew Pudewa is the founder and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Presenting around the world, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. His seminars for parents, students, and teachers have helped transform many a reluctant writer and have equipped educators with powerful tools to dramatically improve students' skills. Although he is a graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Japan (Suzuki Method) and holds a Certificate of Child Brain Development, his best endorsement is from a young Alaskan boy who called him "the funny man with the wonderful words." He and his beautiful, heroic wife, Robin, have homeschooled their seven children and are now proud grandparents of fifteen, making their home in northeastern Oklahoma's beautiful green country.

## SPEAKING TOPICS

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5. Fairy Tales and the Moral Imagination
6. Four Deadly Errors of Teaching Writing
7. From Copywork to Composition: Teaching Writing through Imitation
8. Hacking High School: Rethinking the Teen Years
9. However Imperfectly: Lessons Learned from Thirty Years of Teaching
10. Mastery Learning, Ability Development, and Individualized Education
11. Nature Deficit Disorder – Causes, Consequences, and Cures
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20. The Three Best Things I Did as a Homeschool Dad

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## 1. But . . . but . . . but . . . What about Grammar?



Knowing how to teach grammar is especially challenging for individuals who do not feel confident in their own grammar proficiency. Grammar programs often consist of piles of workbooks, wasted dollars, and way too much time spent trying to complete that subject. Often what is taught in those workbook pages does not translate into success in writing. The results are poor mechanics and a less-than-stellar understanding of “What is a verb?” or perhaps more importantly “How do verb choices enhance writing?” If you are asking, “But what about grammar?” Andrew Pudewa has answers.

## 2. By Heart: The Goodness of Memory



Join Andrew Pudewa in a contemplation of the fundamental human faculty of memory, examining some of the history and biology of memory and its impacts on language, imagination, joy, and virtue.

## 3. Conquering Corrupt Culture by Raising Christian Communicators



Today, many of us have an intuitive sense that major changes are coming. When this happens, our lives may become very different in ways not necessarily convenient or comfortable. At the same time, we must live each day as though things will continue pretty much as they are. Resolving this cognitive dissonance requires that we carefully contemplate our circumstances because we are in a cultural war, fighting the “non-gospel” of aesthetic and moral relativism on three fronts: personal, familial, and social. What should our priorities be? How can we prepare children to be culture warriors?

## 4. Cultivating Language Arts – Preschool through High School



Listening and reading well, speaking and writing clearly, and thinking and debating effectively are abilities that most parents hope to cultivate in their children. With that goal in mind, Andrew Pudewa explores various environments and activities that accelerate the development of these language skills, beginning with the youngest students and continuing into the high school years.

## 5. Fairy Tales and the Moral Imagination



Are fairy tales good, even important, for Christian students? Where did they come from, what can they teach our children, and should we spend our valuable time reading them? Andrew Pudewa discusses several basic themes in fairy tales and traditional children’s literature (goodness, truth, beauty, hope, honesty, and wishes) as well as key archetypes of literature and their importance to the moral imagination. With the confusion surrounding modern fantasy writing, many parents and teachers feel uncertain in discerning good and important literature from misleading and confusing books, stories, and movies.

## 6. Four Deadly Errors of Teaching Writing



After years of teaching, Andrew Pudewa realized that students’ frustrations were often caused by teaching mistakes. Have you committed one of these errors in your teaching? Overcorrecting, holding back help, unclear assignments, and over-expectation can frustrate your students and hamper your best efforts. Join Andrew Pudewa to learn how to overcome and avoid these four deadly errors of teaching writing.

## 7. From Copywork to Composition: Teaching Writing through Imitation



Join Andrew Pudewa to consider the underestimated value of simple copywork, discover the power of text reconstruction, experience the delight of author imitation, and learn the surprising relationship between text analysis and creativity.

## 8. Hacking High School: Rethinking the Teen Years



Most of us have presuppositions about what high school is based on our own experience. Times are changing, and the opportunities for home educating high schoolers have grown rapidly. Many of these opportunities will save time, help your family avoid higher education debt, and give your teens a head start on their next decade of life.

## 9. However Imperfectly: Lessons Learned from Thirty Years of Teaching



In this talk Andrew Pudewa shares many humorous experiences (and painful lessons) he has learned over thirty years of teaching and homeschooling. You will be challenged, reassured, and sure to leave with an expanded vision of your calling as a home educator.

## 10. Mastery Learning, Ability Development, and Individualized Education



What is mastery learning? How does it relate to education? Andrew Pudewa explains the methods, goals, and benefits of the ability development model as developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. He also discusses applications to disciplines other than music. Learn how you can create success in areas where you or your students have struggled in the past.

*See last page for icon topic legend.*



## 11. Nature Deficit Disorder – Causes, Consequences, and Cures



Nature deficit disorder refers to the costs of alienation from nature, including diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional imbalances. It affects individuals, families, and communities. Because homeschoolers strive to provide the best education for their children, they should not overlook the importance of sufficient time in a natural environment—an essential component of raising children in an environment saturated with goodness, truth, and beauty.

## 12. Nurturing Competent Communicators



Many teachers and parents assume that good readers will naturally become good writers. Others think that writing talent is a natural ability. Some have it. Others don't. Both are myths. History and modern research demonstrate how good writers develop the two most critical skills needed for a high level of aptitude in writing. With humor and insight, Andrew Pudewa explains these two easy but powerful skills, which build language patterns and nurture competent communicators.

## 13. Paper and Pen – What the Research Says



Recent years have seen an enormous increase in the use of technology in education for even the youngest students. But is technology really the cure-all that many believe it to be? While traditional skills such as cursive penmanship are seen as unnecessary in the modern world, the actual research tells a different story. Join Andrew Pudewa to learn the compelling reasons to read paper books instead of electronic devices, handwrite instead of type, teach cursive instead of printing, and grab a pen instead of a pencil. Discover how to unleash creativity that goes beyond technology.

## 14. Preparing for Persecution – A Curriculum Proposal



In the future is it imaginable that freedom of speech and freedom of religion could be suppressed where we live? History indicates so. Andrew Pudewa discusses ways to prepare for such a contingency, which may include persecution and even martyrdom. He also explains how to cultivate necessary virtues without sparking burdensome fears. Although this is not a pleasant subject to contemplate, it is an important one.

## 15. Principles of Motivation



A life-long student of motivation, Andrew Pudewa has organized fundamental ideas of motivation into categories: four forms of relevancy, three laws of motivation, and two secret weapons. This expansion of Andrew's previous talk *Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Be Making Forts All Day* includes new and updated stories, tips, and information.

## 16. Reaching the Reluctant Writer



Many children really do not like to write. Why? Andrew Pudewa answers this basic question and teaches a specific and successful method of separating the complex process of writing into the smallest possible steps. This process makes it possible for even the most reluctant writers to produce short but complete compositions so that they will be proud and motivated to write again. Results guaranteed!

## 17. Reading Strategies for the Struggling Reader or Nonreader



As schools have made reading their new god, they believe that producing good readers will solve all their academic problems. As a result, many children—the dyslexic, the easily distracted, the auditorily challenged—are left behind in the rush to improve test scores. What schools do not know (but what many parents and teachers discover) is that reading is not simply being able to rapidly decode symbols with the eyes. With humor and insight, Andrew Pudewa shares stories and strategies for helping students who need to engage the cognitive processes of reading but who are more likely to excel through a wider variety of practical, creative, and imaginative approaches.

## 18. Spelling and the Brain



Many children have difficulty learning to spell, but the difficulty may not be with the student. Often parents and teachers feel ill-equipped to help students who are not natural spellers. Join Andrew Pudewa to learn how spelling information is most efficiently stored in the brain, to gain greater insight into the nature of spelling and neurological function, and to be better equipped to teach students how to spell.

## 19. The Profound Effects of Music on Life



Music has become such an ever-present influence in our daily lives that we seldom stop to consider what effect it has on us. But we must. As we have changed over the last hundred years from being music makers to music consumers, we have gradually lost control over, and even awareness of, our auditory environment. In what way is music beneficial to our bodies and minds? In what circumstances can it actually be harmful? Solid scientific research provides some astounding answers to such questions—indeed, facts that must not be ignored.

## 20. The Three Best Things I Did as a Homeschool Dad



While there are many, many things I could have done better as a homeschool father, there are three distinct things that I did try to do as consistently as possible during our years of homeschooling that were the most helpful according to my wife. Join me to discover the three best things I did and to glean some ideas for making your homeschool years the best they can be. Moms are welcome as well!

# REFERENCES

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*It has been my privilege to host Andrew Pudewa's workshops. I had to turn people away at the door because we had no more room. He speaks from the heart and inspires, encourages, and equips families in their homeschool journey. He lays out easy-to-complete steps to strengthen academic skills but more importantly to strengthen family relationships. The only challenge that I had—and that you will face—is that there is not enough time for him to answer all the questions!*

**Donald Acker** (Home Educators Association of Virginia)

## ICON TOPIC LEGEND



**101** Choose this informative talk if you are serving new homeschoolers.



**Leadership** Opt for this talk if your goal is to equip and inspire people who are raising up leaders for the next generation.



**Language Arts** Add this talk to your event if you are serving teachers and teaching parents of the language arts: listening, speaking, reading, writing.



**Keynote** Pick this talk if you need an engaging presentation about big ideas for a large audience.



**Homeschool Focus** Choose this talk to specifically encourage and equip homeschool parents.



**Convention Favorite** Offer this in-demand talk to energize your audience.



**Classical** Select this talk for audiences interested in classical education—from method to philosophy.



**Christian Content** Include this talk if your event allows for distinctly Christian content.



**PowerPoint** Provide this talk if you want a PowerPoint presentation for your audience.



**Learning Differences** Incorporate this talk into your program to encourage and equip teachers and parents of students with learning differences.

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