

- copy work you have written on the board or on a piece of paper into her main lesson book
- take dictation
- write summaries
- create a scene based on the story of Gilgamesh

Please ensure that you use the suggestions in the Schedule as a guide only. Each child will have different needs when it comes to writing this year. Some should focus on tackling a longish report even to the exclusion of other writing; others will benefit from the discipline of daily short summaries or dictations. It is up to you to determine what your child needs and to find the right balance between those writing assignments which your child is enthusiastic about and those which he just needs to do.

### ***Copied Work***

Copied work is still an extremely important part of your child's education. She is still very young and needs to continue to learn the art of composition and writing primarily through example – and the best examples are those that competent adults have written. And that largely means you in this main lesson! You need to create short pieces for your child to copy based on either a general description of the culture or of the story you and your child just finished. You can also take from the narratives I have written for your child to copy as well – but continue to write on a blackboard or piece of paper taped to the wall – your child needs the opportunity to track and to look up and find her place in writing at a distance as these are important visual skills.

Other examples of copied work include verses as well as Krishna's teaching to Arjuna and the excerpts from Hammurabi's Code included in this book.

### ***Dictation***

We have included several examples of dictation for you to give your child. She should write onto scrap paper and then the two of you can correct her work before she copies it into her book. Dictations are shorter than pieces she writes or that she copies from you.

### ***Summaries***

Some summaries you and your child can write together; others he should write alone (this is a good assignment for your Day Five of homeschooling when you don't have lessons together – see the syllabus for more details on this). A summary needs to be of a doable size – I'd say forget about summarizing the *Mahabharata* (copy in Krishna's teachings instead) but you could summarize the story of Gilgamesh or of Zarathustra. These are still long stories, though. You need to help her figure out the essentials of the story and which details can be left out. This is an enormously important thing to teach your child and will ensure that she becomes a pithy, precise, graceful and creative essay writer as she matures. Take the time to work on such exercises together.