



Talking Dragonflies

By Nancy Hale, Homeschool Mom and Guest Writer

Life is an adventure with our family of six—always noisy, messy, and entertaining. And homeschooling our kids only adds to our interesting and frequently baffling chaotic life.

A few years ago, when my “father-in-love” (my endearing term for him) battled a life-threatening illness, which he lost, we received the surprising revelation that God was again gifting us with a precious, new child. She came into the world three months after my father-in-love departed for heaven. Perfect, active, bright, lovely—she was exactly what our family needed to weather the grief journey that inevitably came with the loss of a loved one.

Possessing a hyperactive imagination, she often would go into what we deemed “Sarah’s World.” Early one morning while playing in our diminutive back yard, this sparkling child gazed at me with utter intensity as a dragonfly floated nearby and declared, “Dragonflies talk!” Then, reading my expression of disbelief, she continued, “Mommy, they really do!”

Our community is comprised mostly of retirees. There are two gentlemen—one a retired teacher and one a retired pastor—who remind me of Sarah. They seem to be in their own little worlds of wonder. They both adore scientific exploration. In fact, the teacher had taught high school science before retiring.

One winter, I asked the teacher to tutor my daughter and her friend. To teach them “the parts of a whole” in using math as the language of science, he took them on quite the scavenger hunt. Looking out the window, I could see him plotting and roping off areas. In his element, he allowed the natural world

to speak to him, and he invited two young students to enter with him. The retired pastor also engaged my home-education scholars in such a way that one child remarked that having him instruct them in astronomy was like being in a planetarium.

The Bible speaks often of the awe of creation and the glory of the Creator. Creation screams His artistry, His vastness, and His power. The great sea roaring and teeming with life demands that we have no excuses but to see His majesty.

It is I who should listen a little more intently when a butterfly or dragonfly graces me with its presence. As a homeschooling mom, it is I who should stop to muse on a starry night and gaze up into the marvelous lesser lights. Could it be that Sarah and these retired professionals were more a part of the “real” world than I had been? Were they more in touch with the God of heaven and earth than I have been because of my distractions?

The Psalmist wrote: “Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy” (Psalm 96:11-12, NIV).

This is a picture of His creation rejoicing before Him, proclaiming Him and His coming again! What glorious hope this dismal, fallen world is announcing! As a homeschooler advocate for more than 20 years, I have discovered this truth, “Dragonflies talk! They really do!”

Dear Father,

Today may I stand in awe of You. May I spend sacred moments gazing upon Your majestic heavens and hear their testimony of Your glory. May I remember I am but a vapor, but You are eternal. I declare Your faithfulness to keep Your promise that one day You will create a new heaven and earth. I choose to walk in wonder today. Amen.

Nancy Hale, by her own confession, is a “long-term, coffee-loving, homeschooling mom to four children (one college graduate and three still on the joyful journey).” She has spent 21 years in ministry to children and families. Today, she resides in Winter Haven, Florida, with “my three teens, one mini-Australian shepherd, one tuxedo cat, and my amazing husband, of 29 years.”