

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION



BIBA KAVENICH

## The Value of a Family Heritage Vacation

When you walk in the footsteps of your ancestors, you find an immediate sense of belonging

By Annie Holmquist

Early this summer, my entire family made the trek to northern Wisconsin to visit our ancestral homestead. Roughly 25 years had passed since we last set eyes on it, thanks to conflicting schedules and other circumstances, but honestly, not much had changed at the old place.

Yet as I sat on the dock, my feet in the

▲ Knowing where you come from—and loving your heritage—gives you a foundation and identity that transcend the latest fads of the day.

clear, iron-tinted water of the lake, or walked along the country road, marveling that numbers of my ancestors had once homesteaded in this community and owned the land I was passing, I gained a better understanding of the importance of family heritage. And in a time in which we're bombarded with how terrible the past was, it seems fitting to explore that heritage, not only to honor those who have gone before, but

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## AMERICAN HEROES

### Some Bits of Wisdom From the 'King of the Wild Frontier'

The legendary exploits of Davy Crockett are rooted firmly in American values

By Jeff Minick

*"Born on a mountain top in Tennessee*

*Greenest state in the land of the free*

*Raised in the woods so he knew every tree*

*Kilt him a b'ar when he was only three*

*Davy, Davy Crockett, king of the wild frontier."*

Sixty years ago, every kid in my neighborhood knew those words to "The Ballad of Davy Crockett." In the mid-1950s, Walt Disney and his studio released five television episodes about that Tennessee frontiersman starring Fess Parker, who also sang the theme song. Two movies made from those shows quickly followed, rejuvenating Davy Crockett's reputation and making Mr. Parker a star.

The fascination with Crockett spilled out of the theaters and into U.S. retailing. Besides the coonskin caps worn by boys in emulation of their hero, Disney licensed more than 300 retail products, from bubble gum cards to toy guns, from pillows and sheets to pajamas. As cultural historian Paul Hutton relates in his 1986 article "Davy Crockett, Still King of the Wild Frontier," this craze for all things Crockett was such that "a Boston store owner stuck with three thousand pairs of unsold moccasins labeled them Davy Crockett moccasins and sold them in a week."

The real Crockett once claimed that he had beguiled a coon out of a tree just by grinning at it. If his spirit was looking down on all this 1950s hoopla surrounding his deed and legends, this 19th-century celebrity was doubtless grinning just as big as he did in that tall tale.

## A Snapshot of the Man

David Crockett (1786–1836) grew up in a large family in the rough-and-tumble life of frontier Tennessee. Fearing a whipping from his father for skipping school—he'd beaten up a bully and was afraid

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▲ Davy Crockett, the "King of the Wild Frontier," has become a wildly popular American legend.



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### AMERICAN HEROES

## Some Bits of Wisdom From the 'King of the Wild Frontier'

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to resume the classes he'd only just started—at age 13, Crockett ran away from home and for more than two years worked a series of jobs before returning to his family. He became a skilled hunter, married young, fought in the Creek War (1813-1814) under then-Gen. Andrew Jackson, remarried after his beloved Polly died, and entered politics. His upbringing, growing fame, humor, and common sense eventually won him a seat in Congress. Defeated in a later election in 1835, he headed to Texas looking for land and a new beginning, and died at the Alamo.

Already a celebrity, in 1834, Crockett issued his "Narrative of the Life of David Crockett, of the State of Tennessee," which he wrote, as he states in the preface, to shed some truth on the stories being told about him and to give readers "a plain, honest, homespun account" of his "state in life." This autobiography, which he fired up even greater public interest in the man, is invaluable as a piece of history, its depiction of frontier life, the amusement it has provided for readers ever since, and its insights into the American spirit of the time.

It also has some lessons for us if we're willing to sit in this one-man classroom.

### The Price of Principles

Andrew Jackson's 1830 Indian Removal Act called for the removal of Indian tribes from Southern states to territories west of the Mississippi, opening up more land for settlers. This displacement resulted in a large number of deaths among Native Americans and is today remembered as the "Trail of Tears." It remains a blot on U.S. history.

At great cost to his political career, Crockett spoke out loudly against this radical measure. He was warned by his colleagues that he was ruining himself, and he wrote, "I told them I believed it was a wicked, unjust measure, and that I should go against it, let the cost to myself be what it might ... I voted against this Indian bill, and my conscience yet tells me that I gave a good honest vote, and one that I believe will not make me ashamed on the day of judgment."

That stand added to the enmity between Jackson and Crockett, and Crockett lost his next election, largely because his constituents supported the Removal Act. Nonetheless, he never showed regret for taking the hard road and obeying his conscience.

At the very beginning of "Narrative," Crockett shares one of the guiding mottos of his life: "I leave this rule for others when I'm dead. Be always sure you're right—THEN GO AHEAD!" This "rule" calls us to stand up for what we believe, while Crockett's opposition to the Indian Removal Act reminds us that honoring our principles may come with a cost.

### Fighting Fear and Hate

Like the social media cancellations of our day, 19th-century newspapers and circulars could savage those who swam against the tide of opinion, and Crockett proved no exception.

He notes in his "Narrative" of his opposition to Jackson: "This was considered the unpardonable sin. I was hunted down like a wild varment, and in this hunt every little newspaper in the district, and every little pin-hook lawyer was engaged. Indeed, they were ready to print any and every thing that the ingenuity of man could invent against me ... Every one of these little papers kept up a constant war on me, fighting with every scurrilous report they could catch."

But Crockett refused to buckle to these attacks. Later in his "Narrative,"



▲ A portrait of Davy Crockett, 1889, by William Henry Huddle, Dallas Museum of Art.

he describes being reelected to the office he had lost and then concludes: "I am at liberty to vote as my conscience and judgment dictates to be right, without the yoke of any party on me, or the driver at my heels, with his whip in hand, commanding me to go-haw, just at his pleasure. Look at my arms, you will find no party hand-cuff on them! Look at my neck, you will not find there any collar, with the engraving 'MY DOG.'"

Some victims of today's cyber mobs have discovered that to offer an apology or ask for forgiveness not only spurs on their attackers, but is a betrayal of truth and character. Crockett teaches us to hold firm without apology when principles are at stake.

### Kindness, Respect, Humor, and an Independent Spirit

In his book, Crockett devotes a few lines to "a very severe misfortune," a flood that destroyed his grist mill and distillery, the center of his modest wealth at the time, and left him with some debt. After a brief description of this change of fortune, which he offers almost apologetically to the reader, he notes his few remaining resources, then adds:

"Best of all, I had an honest wife. She didn't advise me, as is too fashionable, to smuggle up this, and that, and t'other, to go on at home; but she told me, says she, 'Just pay up, as long as you have a bit's worth in the world; and then every

body will be satisfied, and we will scuffle for more.' This was just such talk as I wanted to hear, for a man's wife can hold him devilish uneasy, if she begins to scold, and fret, and perplex him, at a time when he has a full load for a rail-road car on his mind already."

The qualities Crockett admires in his wife—honesty, loyalty, integrity—shine also in him. "Narrative" is the self-portrait of a good man, a man whose company we likely would have enjoyed, who loves and protects his family, and who shows gratitude for favors done for him by others. "I reckon nobody in this world loves a friend better than me," Davy Crockett says, "or remembers a kindness longer." Even today, he embodies the American ideals of responsibility, hard work, and fighting through adversity, often with a dose of laughter to ease the pain.

At one point, Crockett writes, "Let your tongue speak what your heart thinks." Here we might note that he uses the word "thinks" rather than "feels." Passions balanced by common sense and reason—perhaps that's the most profound lesson offered in this autobiography.

Which is a goal worthy of our own ambitions.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va.

# The Value of a Family Heritage Vacation

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also to inspire those who will come after.

### Exhibit 1: Sense of Place

Even though I visited the family homestead only a few times in my childhood, there was still an odd sense of connection I felt to the property. This was where the stories that my father told of his childhood—of the old outhouse, the steep basement stairs he fell down, and the lake that froze in the winter and cracked like a gunshot—took place. This is where my grandfather—of whom I have only a dim memory—grew up. In essence, I set my feet on this land and had automatic roots. I belonged, even though I had rarely been there.

It's this belonging that so many today seem to be searching for. As a friend of mine noted last year, the identity crisis we see today—gender or otherwise—seems to stem in part from the prevalence of divorce in our society, unmooring children and adults, leaving them searching for a place to belong.

Instead of leaving these hurting people to turn to the latest fad on social media, potentially causing irreversible harm to themselves and others, what if we began teaching them to love and learn about where they came from? Doing so would give them an identity, a solid foundation, a place to belong—just as I discovered in my brief visit to the family homestead.

### Exhibit 2: Sense of Purpose

While visiting the family homestead, I heard various stories of how my ancestors came from Sweden, several fleeing the religious persecution of the state church. They settled in a little community, one venturing into new territory with terraced farming, another establishing a little church.

That terraced farmland is no longer in the family, nor does that original church building still stand, yet the legacy of my ancestors continues. They worked hard, blooming where they were planted and walking through the doors that were opened to them, even if those doors were simple, mundane tasks in a little backwoods town.

Today, so many of us want to do big things, finding it difficult to be content unless we have numerous likes on social media, bring in a huge paycheck, or do something noteworthy to brag about. Learning about our heritage can put a more reasonable perspective on these goals, reassuring us that it's OK if we don't have the most stellar job, car, or house. The important thing is if we do the little things faithfully, blooming where we're planted, investing in the important things of life, such as church, community, and family, just as our ancestors did.

### Exhibit 3: Sense of Potential

While walking down the country road near the family homestead, I couldn't help but reflect on how likely it was that my ancestors had prayed for me, one of their unknown descendants, many years before. Such a thought inspires me to make them proud, a testament to their answered prayers. But it also inspires me to pray and work for my own descendants to have a bright future.

Daniel Webster expressed this sentiment well in 1820 when, reflecting on our Pilgrim forefathers, he said:

"We would leave for consideration of those who shall then occupy our places, some proof that we hold the blessings transmitted from our fathers in just estimation;

### LIVING WELL

## The Benefits of a Monthly Review

Take a moment every month to reflect on what life has given you

By Barbara Danza

I can remember being a little girl in school watching the clock on the wall tick by as if it were running in slow motion. The school day seemed to last forever. But it wasn't just the school day. I always seemed to have a lot of time to play and do homework after school, and with dinner time with family lasting a good while as well, the days somehow felt long.

These days, with a family of my own,



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some proof of our attachment to the cause of good government, and of civil and religious liberty; some proof of a sincere and ardent desire to promote every thing which may enlarge the understandings and improve the hearts of men. And when, from the long distance of a hundred years, they shall look back upon us, they shall know, at least, that we possessed affections, which, running backward and warming with gratitude for what our ancestors have done for our happiness, run forward also to our posterity, and meet them with cordial salutation, ere yet they have arrived on the shore of being."

So how can we go about fostering these affections in ourselves and in the genera-

**The important thing is if we do the little things faithfully, blooming where we're planted, investing in the important things of life, such as church, community, and family, just as our ancestors did.**

Visit the little towns and places where your parents and grandparents lived, walking the neighborhoods and imagining what life must have been like for them.

Seek out the local graveyard, searching for the graves of relatives. Doing so will

solidify the birth and death dates of those who went before, helping you to place them in the events of history, while also gaining perspective on how short and difficult many of their lives were.

Finally, talk to older relatives, either before or during your trip. Many of them are full of stories, just waiting for people to listen and show interest. Doing so will help them feel valued, while also enabling you to build relationships and connections, further establishing the sense of belonging we all need.

A family heritage vacation may not leave you with many souvenirs or Instagram-worthy posts, but it will leave you with many memories and a deeper sense of place, purpose, and potential—elements we all need in an increasingly rootless society.

*Annie Holmquist is a cultural commentator hailing from America's heartland who loves classic books, architecture, music, and values. Her writings can be found at Annie's Attic on Substack.*

Define how you wish to improve your progress in each category.

**Joy**  
Ask yourself: "What would make this month wonderful? What are my favorite activities to partake in this season? What's special about this stage of my life? What would I be glad I did or experienced at the end of this month?"

**Detail**  
For the month ahead, determine the three most important goals to aim for and define the next step necessary to achieve that goal.

**Let Go**  
Finally, as if you were pulling weeds from your garden, identify some things, habits, tendencies, or even ideas you could let go of this month. What is no longer serving you? Declutter. Let go.

I'm running from here to there, managing many small details, and the days seem to zoom by. Often it feels like the day's wrapping up shortly after getting started.

Maybe it's my stage of life, the responsibilities of parenthood, or simply that I need to clear my plate a bit, but I know from talking to friends and family that I'm not the only person who feels like time is flying by.

One way I've found to appreciate and take stock of life, ensure I'm spending my precious time on my true priorities, and stay organized amid it all is to conduct a personal monthly review. Here's how.

### Review

As another month closes, use your calendar or the pictures in your phone to jog your memory of all that transpired in the past month. In a notebook or journal, make note of the key happenings. What moments are you grateful for? What goals did you accomplish? What memories would you like to capture?

What milestones were reached? What could have gone better? What do you wish to continue to work on this month?

### Categorize

Next, list the main categories of your life, such as family, career, finances, fitness, hobbies, spirituality.



Conducting a personal monthly review is a good way to appreciate and take stock of life, keep track of where you're spending your time, and stay organized.

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◀ If you're interested in finding out more about your family, start with some historical research, which will point you where to go next.



## FINE ART

# Sandro Botticelli: Beauty and Virtue Epitomized

By Da Yan

Sandro Botticelli (circa 1445–1510) is by now an almost household name for those familiar with Western art. Yet one might be surprised to learn that in the few centuries after the Renaissance, artists largely disregarded him

as primitive, medieval, and not on par with the perfection achieved by Raphael and Michelangelo.

Indeed, it has only been 100 years since Botticelli's reputation resurged as an important master of the early Renaissance, whose works speak much about the intricate relationship between Greco-Roman and Christian

cultures in Italian society.

## Pallas and the Centaur

The monumental mythological painting commonly titled "Pallas and the Centaur" ranks as one of the most extraordinary masterpieces in Botticelli's oeuvre. Under a rocky cliff and against a distant landscape, two

life-size figures pose casually in the foreground. On the left, stands a centaur, a demigod creature from ancient mythology whose beastly nature was often associated with unrestrained passion and lust. On the right, a woman dressed in an elaborate costume takes a strand of the centaur's curly hair in her hand, as she looks at him dispassionately.

The subject of this strange iconography has been hotly debated for well over a century but still remains a mystery. According to this popular theory, the female figure is identified as Minerva, or Pallas Athena, the Greco-Roman goddess of wisdom. She holds a ceremonial halberd while the centaur carries a loosely strung bow, but there's no sign of any fighting. The goddess's evident control of the centaur is often interpreted as representing the submission of the human's beastly passion to divine reason.

Such a complex iconography reflects well the intellectual milieu of Botticelli's time. Across the 1400s, Florentine humanists had been discussing precisely these matters of human nature within the context of Christian theology and ancient philosophy. And the discussion culminated during the rule of Lorenzo de' Medici (1469–1492), statesman, banker, and the most influential and enthusiastic art patron in Renaissance Italy.

Dated to the 1480s, after Botticelli's return from Rome, the painting was probably commissioned by Lorenzo himself as a wedding gift for the marriage of his cousin. The theme of pagan mythology would have appealed to their humanist interest in ancient culture, and the voluntary submission of the centaur could also be taken as a romantic symbol for matrimonial commitment.

## The Adoration of the Magi

As a painter for Florentine merchants and elites, Botticelli was active not only as an artist but also as a member of his society. He made many portraits of his contemporaries and took on commissions that specifically tailored to his patrons' needs. "The Adoration of the Magi," an altarpiece painted in 1475 for the merchant Gaspare di Zanobi del Lama, portrays his patron as an intimate friend of the Medici dynasty. Here, Botticelli also confidently inserted his own self-portrait, establishing himself as the author of the painting and a prominent citizen of Medici Florence.

The coming of three wise men to the birth of Jesus Christ is one of the most familiar episodes in the Bible since the Middle Ages. In the altarpiece, they're seen gathered at the foot of the holy family offering gifts, while a large crowd of well-dressed spectators stand on the two sides.

But abandoning formulaic depictions of the Magi, Botticelli gave them the features of the Medici. Cosimo the Elder, who had first led the family to its prosperity, poses for the Magus in



▲ "Pallas and the Centaur," circa 1480–1485, by Sandro Botticelli. Tempera on canvas. Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

## BOOK REVIEW

## 'Brave Men': War Correspondent Ernie Pyle in World War II

Ernie Pyle with a crew from the U.S. Army's 191st Tank Battalion at the Anzio beachhead in 1944. U.S. Army Center of Military History.



The writings of Ernie Pyle, journalist on the frontlines

By Mark Lardas

Ernie Pyle was the most beloved war correspondent of World War II. He covered the war from North Africa to Northern France in the European theater before going to the Pacific to report on the Okinawa invasion.

"Brave Men," originally published in 1944, is a classic collection of Pyle's writings. It covers his activities from the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 through the liberation of Paris in August 1944. The book was made up of his newspaper

columns. Some were updated to reflect changes since he wrote them, noting what happened to those he had written about.

In the book, he lives in many different places: aboard a landing ship tank headed to Anzio with engineers; with an infantry company and artillery unit in Italy; among the aircrews of dive bomber, light bomber, and medium bomber units in Italy; and with anti-aircraft units in France. He then told the stories of the men (and occasional women) who belonged to each place, relating nothing grand, just the everyday experiences of life.

Pyle's style is what made him so popular back then and is why he is still worth reading today. He looks at the war from

black, while the figure below him in a bright red robe is identified as his son Piero, the second generation of the Medici head of state. Other members of the family and their friends are found scattered in the crowd, including Lorenzo, his brother Giuliano, and the poet-philosopher Poliziano. On the right side of the painting, the patron of the altarpiece Gaspare del Lama is thought to be depicted. Cloaked in blue and pointing toward himself, he faces the viewer. Botticelli himself also turns from the scene and confronts the viewer with an intent stare, as if inviting us to look at and contemplate the world he created.

Abounding with portraits of contemporaries, the painting thus appears as a miniature of Renaissance Florentine society. Di Zanobi commissioned the altarpiece for his funerary chapel in the prominent church of Santa Maria Novella, easily viewable by the public. The choice of the subject matter, as well as the depiction of the Medici family, speaks to the patron's wish to publicly announce his association with the powerful bankers. Indeed, di Zanobi's private chapel was dedicated on Jan. 6, the feast day for the Epiphany, when the Medici would dress up each year as

the Magi in celebratory processions. While commissioned to make a religious painting, Botticelli details all these social references, which speak more to the patron's worldly aspirations than his spiritual devotion to Christ or Mary.

## St. Augustine in His Study

Nevertheless, the widespread pursuit for worldly fame and fortune in Florentine society became ever more concerning for those devoted to a medieval spiritual life, who saw the



▲ "St. Augustine in His Cell," between 1490 and 1494, by Sandro Botticelli. Tempera on panel. Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

In his later years, Botticelli would turn away from secular and pagan themes.

Medici regime and the humanist culture associated with it as decadent and corrupting. In 1494, after Lorenzo's death, the Dominican preacher Girolamo Savonarola gathered a large following, took power in the city, and expelled the Medici family. He denounced clerical corruption, despotic rule, and the exploitation of the poor, and called for a renewal of the Christian faith.

Botticelli, a deeply religious artist inspired by Savonarola's sermons, would in his later years turn away from secular and pagan themes that had preoccupied him in his youth, even supposedly burning some of his own works at the friar's "bonfire of the vanities."

The small, intimate painting "St. Augustine in His Study" was completed just around these uncertain times, when Botticelli's humanist interest in pagan antiquity seemed to have come into an irreconcilable conflict with his deeply felt Christian faith. In an austere, vaulted chamber sits the solitary Augustine of Hippo, a prominent theologian and philosopher who lived in the fourth and fifth centuries. He appears to write quietly in a pocket book, but the used-up quills on the floor and loose sheets of torn paper betray an authorial heart far from being at peace.

Perhaps Botticelli is saying something here: Painting, just like thinking and writing, requires courageous sacrifices and revisions. It's only through the insistent correction of errors and imperfections that one may continuously surpass oneself and strive toward the achievement of a great mind.

Da Yan is a doctoral student of European art history. Raised in Shanghai, he lives and works in the Northeastern United States.



▲ "Adoration of the Magi," circa 1475–1476, by Sandro Botticelli. Tempera on panel. Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

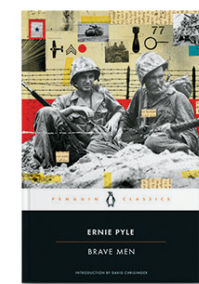
a retail level. He mentioned those he encountered by name, giving their hometown, and occasionally their street address. (Modern readers can look them up on Google Earth and wonder whether today's residents know of its heritage.) His prose is straightforward and spare, highly readable.

Most of those he wrote about weren't famous. A few, such as Bill Mauldin, were becoming famous. Others, such as future sportscaster Lindsey Nelson, would become famous in the 1950s through the 1970s, but others were unknown GIs in World War II. (Internet searches on names Pyle mentions sometimes yield interesting surprises.)

The book contains some of Pyle's best writing, including his best-known column, "The Death of Captain Waskow." It follows a pattern pioneered by Pyle pre-war, roving the United States, looking for ordinary people with interesting stories. It was a format followed by Charles

Kurat postwar and Salena Zito today. "Brave Men" is being re-released in a new edition with an introduction by Pyle biographer David Chrisinger. It's worth reading or reading again. It's a reminder of the best in America back in the 1940s. Yet much of what he writes about still exists in today's small-town and rural America.

Mark Lardas, an engineer, freelance writer, historian, and model-maker, lives in League City, Texas. His website is [MarkLardas.com](http://MarkLardas.com)



**'BRAVE MEN'**  
By Ernie Pyle, with an introduction by David Chrisinger  
Penguin Classics  
May 30, 2023  
Paperback  
544 pages



▲ Endurance's final sinking, November 1915, Royal Geographical Society.

## BOOK REVIEW

## The Search and Discovery of a Most Memorable Ship

By Dustin Bass

The story of the Endurance is a real life epic. It is hard to imagine another story so engrossing and so impossible that also happens to be true. When Ernest Shackleton assembled 27 men to join him in his quest to cross Antarctica, he began a journey that would stand as a testament to mankind's indomitable will to survive. It was a disaster practically from the moment the Endurance reached the ice floe of the frozen continent. Trapped in ice, the ship was crushed and on Nov. 21, 1915, sank to the bottom of the Weddell Sea.

## 'The Ship Beneath the Ice'

Mensun Bound, a maritime archaeologist and ocean explorer, believed the famous ship could be found. Despite the passing of more than a century, Mr. Bound's experience suggested that the ship wasn't only close to the coordinates left by Frank Worsley, the captain of the Endurance, but that it would more than likely be intact. Or at least as close as a crushed and sunken ship could be.

Mr. Bound spent a decade preparing and attempting to locate the Endurance: the first time in 2019 (The Weddell Sea Expedition) and then successfully in 2022 (The Endurance22 Expedition). His diaries from these massive, expensive, and dangerous expeditions have resulted in his book "The Ship Beneath the Ice: The Discovery of Shackleton's Endurance."

The director of these two explorations provides intricate details into the search, trials, errors, failures, and ultimate triumph of what was seemingly impossible: the discovery of a ship that had been resting nearly two miles below the surface for more than 100 years.

The reader rides the highs and lows of Mr. Bound's experiences. We are taken on a day-by-day journey to the heart of the most dangerous sea in the world with colorful characters, animal life, and the constant threat of unforgiving weather. Of course, technology, specifically the autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) AUV 7 and Sabertooth, enabled these expeditions to succeed when before it would have been impossible.

As powerful and useful as these technological advances were, it was Worsley's coordinates that provided Mr. Bound and his team a starting point. And the author and leader of this discovery does justice to the Endurance team of 1915 by referencing them throughout his diary entries.

## The Crew of 1915

Those references are nostalgic but also gritty. That gritiness only grew when the Endurance crew was forced to abandon the ship. The tale of survival required the killing of penguins for food and the tragic misfortune of having to remove the dogs and the ship's cat from the number of mouths to feed. Aside from the necessary harshness, Mr. Bound's references are a celebration of Shackleton's leadership and foresight, Worsley's miraculous gift for dead reckoning navigation, and the ability of all 28 men to survive despite the incomparable hardships.

It's easy to see that Mr. Bound has an affinity for the Endurance story. He knows it very well, as is made clear in his entries. But many people have an affinity for the story (I am one of those people). The author appears almost duty-bound to discover the sunken ship, as if Shackleton's ghost has requested it as a proper bookend to his own story.

Despite knowing how the story ends before it ends, one feels Mr. Bound's anguish and heartache from the first expedition's failure, a failure that included an eerie moment when the AUV 7 went rogue and was never to be found again.

For an explorer and for his relying on diary entries, Mr. Bound doesn't retract from the dramatic nor from detailed imagery, such as when the AUV 7 went missing. "We are in a whitout, surrounded by hull-lacerating ice in the middle of a frozen wasteland, fighting the almighty power of the pack while searching for a two-metre-long [6 1/2 feet] tube, 3,000 metres [3,300 yards] down, that could now be anywhere within the black, cavernous, sealed tomb beneath our keel."

## Discovering the Endurance

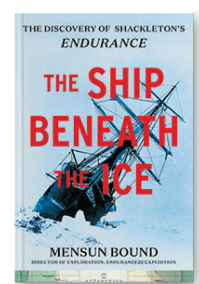
When the ship was finally discovered on March 5, 2022, Mr. Bound reflected on the success and the 2019 expedition that had come so close to succeeding. Even in the face of the failed 2019 attempt, he was able to take retrospective solace knowing that his predictions in 2018 about the location of the ship and its condition had been correct.

The author discusses what it was like viewing the sunken Endurance while the AUV Sabertooth's camera passed alongside her various sections. In perfect form, Mr. Bound describes the stern, the various decks, the cabins, and smaller, but very significant parts, such as the wheel and the nine letters fascinatingly still visible along the stern of the ship, in a way that connects the 1915 crew with the 2022 discovery. The dead are revived to join in the celebration. They are once again connected to a seemingly impossible endeavor.

"The Ship Beneath the Ice," despite its frigid content, is a story that will warm the heart, not simply because the Endurance was found, but also because Mr. Bound and scores of others believed its discovery to be important.

The discovery was a necessary conclusion to the Shackleton adventure. In a sense, it was a debt of gratitude being paid to the Shackleton crew for inspiring the world and proving that the impossible can be achieved. And it's a debt that we can all thank Mr. Bound and the Endurance22 Expedition for paying.

Dustin Bass is an author and co-host of *The Sons of History* podcast.



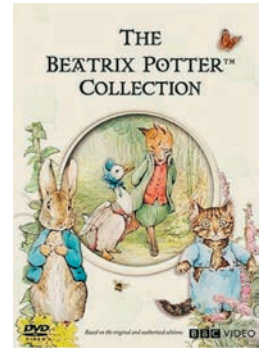
**'THE SHIP BENEATH THE ICE: The Discovery of Shackleton's Endurance'**  
By Mensun Bound  
Mariner Books  
Feb. 28, 2023  
Hardcover  
416 pages



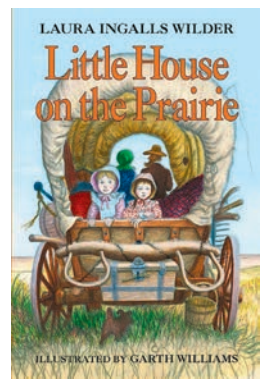
EDUCATION

# 5 Children's Series to Read Out Loud to Your Kids

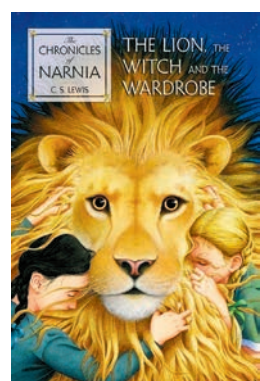
It's impossible to underestimate the benefits of read-alouds on a child's development



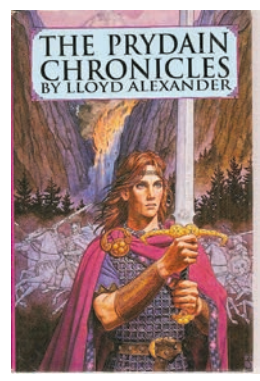
▲ There are 23 original titles in Beatrix Potter's books, each instilling an appreciation of animals and nature and a sense of grace and proportion.



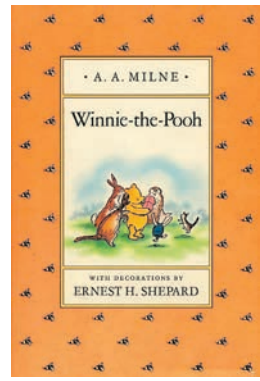
▲ The "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder are both engaging and educational, teaching children about pioneer life and American history.



▲ "The Chronicles of Narnia" series by C.S. Lewis is a classic fantasy story that touches on deep moral themes.



▲ Lloyd Alexander's "The Chronicles of Prydain" is a high fantasy adventure with traditional themes of courage, love, and honor.



▲ A.A. Milne's "Winnie-the-Pooh" is an innocent story about a boy and his woodland companions.

By Walker Larson

Reading aloud to kids has myriad benefits. Many studies have shown, for instance, that kids who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to succeed in their formal education. One of the reasons for this is that they will enter school with a wider vocabulary, which will enable them to pick up on more of what the teacher says. Children whose language skills have been developed by being read to will also learn to read more easily themselves. The stronger their reading skills, the more likely they'll graduate from high school.

Reading out loud can help older kids, too, by improving and maintaining a good attention span. It's also an advertisement for books themselves, inspiring kids to read on their own and fostering a lifetime of love for books. If children (of all ages) don't see their parents taking time to read by themselves or with the kids, they probably won't value reading either. Speaking from my own experience, I gained a strong appreciation for books and a feel for the rhythm and beauty of the English language by listening to books in addition to reading them on my own.

Apart from these purely developmental advantages, we can note many other benefits of reading aloud. Good children's literature teaches moral lessons by dramatizing the conflict between good and evil and the consequences of bad choices. Children want to know who the good guys are and who the bad guys are and what makes the difference, and stories help them understand this. As J.R.R. Tolkien wrote of children: "Far more often [than asking the question 'Is it true?'] they have asked me: 'Was he good? Was he wicked?' That is, they were far more concerned to get the Right side and the Wrong side clear. For that is a question equally important in History and in Faerie." Children develop their moral sense in part through stories.

Good literature also opens up new worlds for children to explore and puts them in closer contact with this world. Great books inspire a sense of wonder that is key to all later learning and to a full, flourishing human life. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, reading together provides the opportunity for parents and children to bond.

Here are five classic series of children's books that will allow you to enjoy many of the fruits of reading aloud outlined above.

### Beatrix Potter's Books

Helen Beatrix Potter was an illustrator, naturalist, and writer at the beginning of the 20th century. Her series of children's books featuring anthropomorphized animals is superb and has rightly become a classic. Her iconic characters, such as Peter Rabbit and Tom Kitten, dance across the pages because of her delightful illustrations, while their exploits often teach important lessons. The naughty animal children generally pay a price for their misbehavior.

Children's books should be attractive and tasteful in both words and art in order to form children's memory and imagination in accordance with the beautiful, and Beatrix Potter's series certainly fulfills this requirement. These books will help instill an appreciation of animals and nature and a sense of grace and proportion. Even children's literature should be ennobling in its forms and messages. We do children a disservice if we think they are incapable of being inspired—at least to a limited degree—by the good, the true, and the beautiful.



Reading out loud to children helps develop their language skills and prepares them to succeed in school.

Low Assistant Pig-Keeper

Taran, who loses his charge (a magical pig) at the beginning of the first novel, "The Book of Three," which triggers a long series of adventures involving a vivacious princess, a foolish bard, an enchantress, abductions, spells, giants, dwarfs, undead warriors, and ultimately the fate of the kingdom.

It's high fantasy at its best and very accessible for children and teens, roughly ages 7 to 14. Traditional themes of courage, honor, and love run through the series.

### 'The Chronicles of Narnia' by C.S. Lewis

I think fairy tales are important for readers of all ages, but especially for children. That's why the last two entries on my list are both fantasy series. Fantasy appeals particularly to the hungry imaginations of children while also awakening them to a sense of wonder and awe that will, hopefully, translate to their experience of the real world, too. Fairy tales work particularly well at embodying good and evil and their constant struggle, pointing us toward higher realities and battles that must be fought in the real world. The best fantasy incites a deep, mystery-laden longing that keeps you searching for the noble things of life.

Few series do this better than "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis. This set of seven novels tells of the travels of a group of British children between our world and the magical land of Narnia. The children play key roles in the development of Narnian history, from its creation to its apocalypse, often saving it from tyrants who seek to take it over. Narnia is a place of talking animals, mythical beasts, witches, curses, and its king, a lion named Aslan, who is both dangerous and gentle, powerful and good.

The books not only tell thrilling stories with many a battle and heroic exploit, but also touch on deep moral themes and occasionally reach a visionary height that shines a light on our own world and history, like sunlight reflected off a mirror. This series is recommended for ages 6 and up.

There are, of course, countless other classic works of children's literature. This is just a start. But I hope the works listed here can provide many hours of healthy and enjoyable family time because of how well they lend themselves to being read aloud.

Walker Larson teaches literature and history at a private academy in Wisconsin, where he resides with his wife. He holds a master's in English literature and language, and his writing has appeared in *The Hemingway Review*, *Intellectual Takeout*, and his *Substack*, "TheHazelnut."

These books are suitable for ages 2 to 6. I think they're especially good bedtime stories—my sister used to ask my dad to read "The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit" every night before bed for years when she was little. With 23 original titles in the series (and if your kids like to repeat certain ones as much as my sister did), it will take you a long time to run out.

'Winnie the Pooh' by A.A. Milne No list of children's books would be complete without A.A. Milne's beloved "Winnie-the-Pooh." The stories about a boy and his stuffed animals and woodland companions, such as Winnie-the-Pooh (a bear), Piglet (a pig), and Eeyore (a donkey), form an enchanting world for young children to visit. Many of the stories are hilarious, even to adults, though there's also a certain innocence and vulnerability—I almost said "melancholy"—to the stories that makes them touching and more than a mere comic diversion.

The illustrations by Ernest Shepard are a must. Like Potter's illustrations, they are simple, natural, and charming, giving so much life to the stories that it's hard to imagine the words without the pictures. These books will appeal to children ages 3 to 7, and possibly much older. Skip (or postpone) the TV show and read the original books.

### The 'Little House' Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Largely autobiographical, these books tell the story of Laura Ingalls as she grows up as a settler and pioneer. Children will enjoy the wide array of adventures during Laura's childhood and young adulthood on the American frontier. Particularly fascinating are the details about homesteading and everyday life during the pioneer age: hunting, gardening, tapping trees, collecting honey, smoking meat, surviving fever, calving, fiddle playing, and so on.

The books are notable for their attention to the detail of these everyday activities, which gives them a vividness and make the series a window into history, a simpler lifestyle, and the achievements of our ancestors. The mark of a good children's book is that it holds the interest and attention of adults as well as children, and the Little House books meet that criterion—I recommend these books for readers ages 6 and up.

'The Chronicles of Prydain' by Lloyd Alexander Inspired by Welsh mythology and folklore, "The Chronicles of Prydain" is set in the magical kingdom of Prydain, which is ruled by a high king and filled with various subkingdoms, peoples, and creatures. The stories fol-

Great books inspire a sense of wonder that is key to all later learning and to a full, flourishing human life.

Fantasy appeals particularly to the hungry imaginations of children while also awakening them to a sense of wonder and awe that will, hopefully, translate to their experience of the real world, too.

# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES



Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803-1882), AMERICAN POET

## The Pasture

By Robert Frost

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;  
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away  
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):  
I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.

I'm going out to fetch the little calf  
That's standing by the mother. It's so young,  
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.  
I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.

# This Week in History



THE US DECLARES A MOTTO

On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law officially designating the phrase "In God We Trust" to be the motto of the United States of America. Additionally, the law mandated that the phrase be printed on every piece of U.S. currency.

Two years earlier, the president had signed a bill inserting the two words "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance. When asked about it, he explained, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was president for two terms (1953 to 1961).

# THE EUROPEAN ROBIN

By Aidan Danza

Very long time ago, many English birds were just known by one-word names—robin. Chaffinch. Bullfinch. Nightingale. Blackbird.

However, at some point, Englishmen began to discover that there were different versions of the same bird in different countries, or at least, birds that reminded them of birds back home. So the chaffinch became the "common chaffinch," the bullfinch became the "Eurasian bullfinch," and the nightingale became the "common nightingale." Such is the story with the European robin, too.

As the first Englishmen came to America, they saw a resemblance between what we know now as the American robin and the robin of the old country, and they called the American bird a robin, too. The robin of Britain and Europe, however, is a completely different bird from the American robin. For starters, it's classified as an Old World flycatcher among scientists, a family which includes more than 300 species in Europe. It fits the mold well, eating mostly insects, worms, seeds, and fruits. Unlike American robins, it will actually come to bird feeders to eat, especially platform feeders stocked with fruits, mealworms, and seeds.

European robins nest in all manner of places, with the object of prime robin real estate being concealment. They'll nest in hedges, tree roosts, woodpiles, vines, and many other places. While there's no real way to tell male and female robins apart just by looking at them, scientists think that the female builds the nest entirely on her own, with the male feeding her and protecting her. It's thought that she does all the egg incubating, too, while the male continues to feed her. The chicks hatch completely naked, with eyes closed. They are completely helpless, relying on their parents for every need. Two weeks later, they leave the nest, learning to fly a few days later.



Robins live about 13 months on average.

Male and female robins look indistinguishable from one another.

## AMAZING ESCAPES!

USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

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| Easy puzzle 1   | Medium puzzle 1                        | Hard puzzle 1       |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |
| <table border="1"> <tr><td>7</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>34</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>-</td><td>x</td><td>÷</td></tr> </table> | 7                                      | 9                   | 34 |  | 4 | 7 | + | - | x | ÷ | <table border="1"> <tr><td>5</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>32</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>-</td><td>x</td><td>÷</td></tr> </table> | 5 | 17 | 32 |  | 3 | 13 | + | - | x | ÷ | <table border="1"> <tr><td>14</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>72</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>-</td><td>x</td><td>÷</td></tr> </table> | 14 | 26 | 72 |  | 7 | 25 | + | - | x | ÷ |
| 7   | 9                                      |                     |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |
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| Solution For Easy 1   | Solution for Medium 1                  | Solution for Hard 1 |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |
| L + 6 = (9 - L)   | 8 - 9 + 81 + 11<br>(81 - 21) x (8 + 9) | L + 11 + 92 = 92    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |    |  |   |    |   |   |   |   |



HIDDEN TREASURES by Liz Ball  
www.HiddenPicturePuzzles.com

WORD SEARCH: Let's Go On Vacation!

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| Airport  | Lake      |
| Backpack | Leisure   |
| Baggage  | Luggage   |
| Beach    | Museum    |
| Boat     | Passport  |
| Cabin    | Relax     |
| Camera   | Return    |
| Camping  | Sail      |
| Coast    | Scenery   |
| Cruise   | Ski lodge |
| Getaway  | Station   |
| Holiday  | Swim      |
|          | Tour bus  |
|          | Tourist   |
|          | Train     |
|          | Unpack    |
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|          | Zoo       |

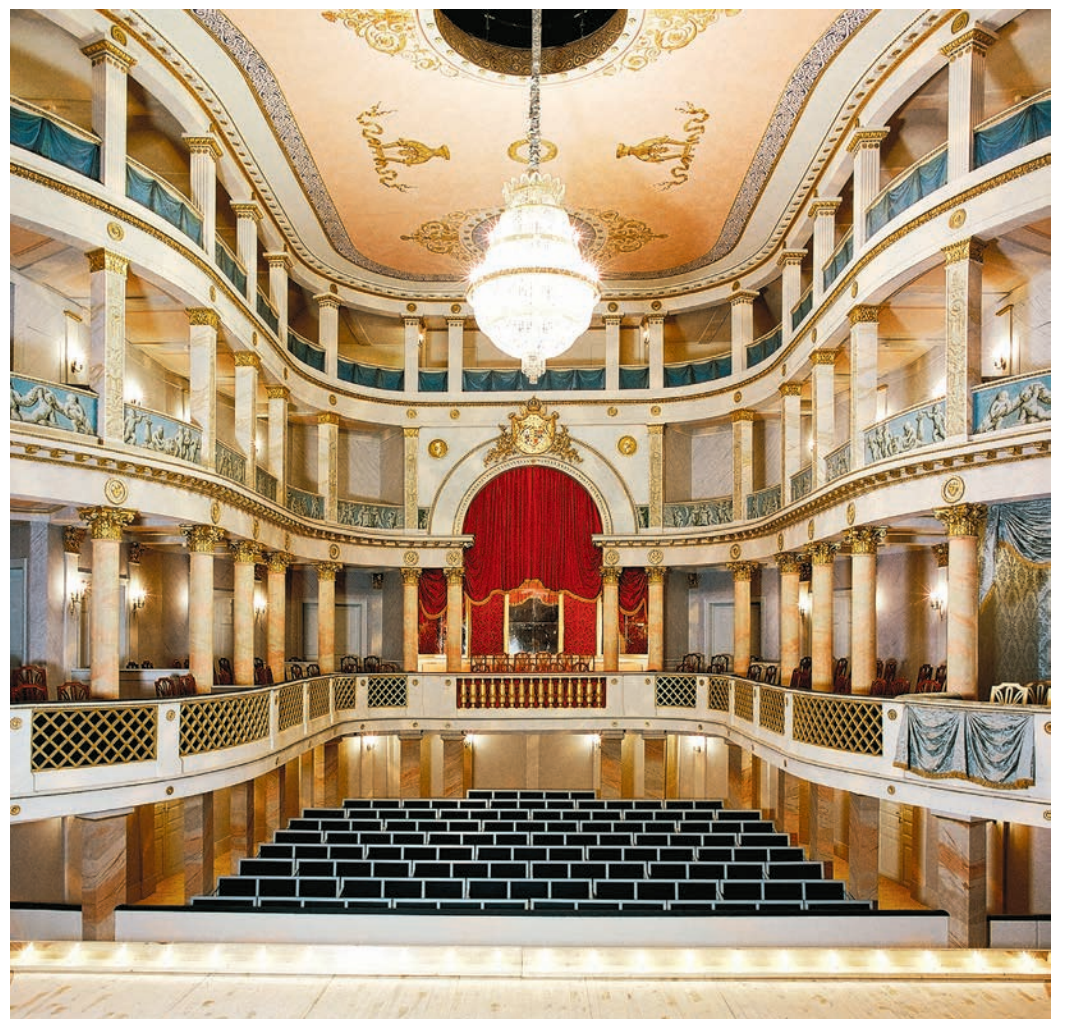


STEFFEN HAUSWIRTH/COURTESY OF STATE PALACES AND GARDENS OF BADEN-WURTEMBERG



▲ One of the most beautiful rooms of Ludwigsburg Palace, the Marble Hall is a perfect representation of the palace's unique blend of styles, with both Baroque and Neoclassical elements. The oval shape and layout are reminiscent of the Baroque style. The walls, in the Neoclassical style, are in a delicate pink synthetic marble and are covered with white stucco reliefs, garlands, flat pilasters, and statues reminiscent of priestesses of antiquity, sculpted by Johann Heinrich von Dannecker. Chandeliers hang from the trompe l'oeil ceiling depicting a cloud-filled blue sky, opening the space upward.

JOACHIM FEIST/COURTESY OF STATE PALACES AND GARDENS OF BADEN-WURTEMBERG



▲ The theater is one of the oldest surviving of its kind in Europe, with original stage machinery from the 18th and 19th centuries. Built in 1750 entirely out of wood, the theater features three tiers of seats, a stage, a series of painted sets, and a red curtain. In 1811, King Friedrich I added some Neoclassical elements, such as the columns and the blue frieze. The background scenery is changed mechanically, and the mechanism, very advanced for its time, still functions.

LARGER THAN LIFE: Art that inspires us through the ages

# Germany's Ludwigsburg Palace: The 'Swabian Versailles'

By Ariane Triebswetter

Ludwigsburg Palace (Schloss Ludwigsburg), just north of Stuttgart, Germany, is one of Europe's largest Baroque complexes. The palace estate bears many similarities to Versailles in terms of size, historical importance, and architectural styles and is nicknamed the "Swabian Versailles" for its location in the southwestern region of Germany known as Swabia.

Eberhard Ludwig, Duke of Württemberg, built a hunting lodge on the grounds in 1704. In 1718, the duke en-

larged the site into a sumptuous palace, featuring 18 buildings, 452 rooms, and a beautiful 79-acre park. Carl Alexander, Duke of Württemberg, Eberhard Ludwig's successor, added apartments in the French Rococo style.

Ludwigsburg Palace became a summer home of the first King of Württemberg, Frederick I, who redecorated many rooms in the Empire style, a Neoclassical style influenced by Napoleon and characterized by its eclecticism and classical revival motifs.

What makes Ludwigsburg Palace so unique is its blend of styles, representing three distinct historical periods.

The building features the Baroque style with its stucco, marble, gilding, silk damask, dramatic staircases, and chandeliers that decorate the state-rooms and chapel. The light-hearted Rococo style and the elegant Neoclassical style are also present, as seen in the many gilded mirrors and Egyptian-inspired furniture. Today, Ludwigsburg Palace is Germany's best-preserved Baroque residence.

*Ariane Triebswetter is an international freelance journalist with a background in modern literature and classical music.*

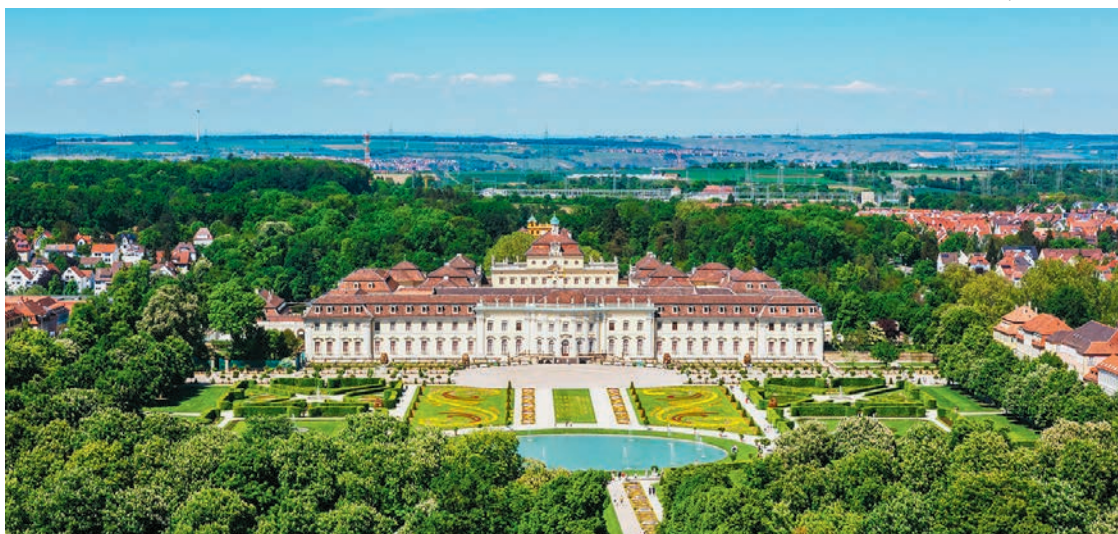
▼ The king's waiting room, in an eclectic mix of styles, serves as the royal audience chamber. The furniture is decorated with red damask, and a Baroque chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The rest of the room features the Neoclassical style with symmetric doors, the wall borders, and blue and gold wall paneling.

MARCOBRIVIO.PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK



MARKUS MAINKA/SHUTTERSTOCK

► The Ludwigsburg Palace, designed by Italian architect Donato Giuseppe Frisoni, resides at the center of the German city of Ludwigsburg. The Baroque complex expanded to four wings around the palace courtyard. The central building is enclosed by the hunting and gaming pavilions and hosts state apartments. The large garden is in the formal French and naturalistic English styles, with lush trees, symmetric lawns, flower borders, and water features.



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