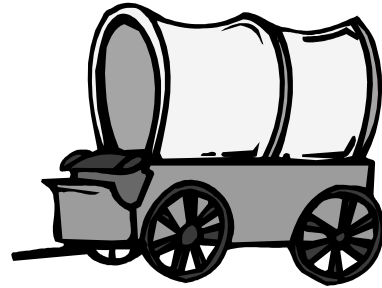


Little House on the Prairie

by *Laura Ingalls Wilder*



Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- ☼ On the United States map, find Kansas. Then on the Kansas map, find Independence, Kansas.
 - Is this near where you live in Missouri?
 - What do you think the weather would be like?
- ☼ If you had to move in a covered wagon and could only take the most important things you own, make a plan of what would you take.
 - Why would you choose those things?
- ☼ Imagine if you had to travel in a covered wagon.
 - Describe what you think it would be like.

During Reading:

Chapters 1 ~ 4: Traveling to the Prairie

- ☼ Name some of the problems the Ingalls' family had in their travels by covered wagon to Kansas.
 - Explain how they solved one of those problems.
- ☼ In Chapter 4, *Prairie Day*, Laura found lots of ways to have fun.
 - Which one of those activities would you like to do?
 - Why would you want to?
 - Could you do still that activity today?
 - Explain why or why not.

Chapters 5 ~ 10: Building the Little House on the Prairie

- ⊗ Building the home on the prairie took lots of work.
 - Who helped Pa build the home?
 - What clues in the story tell you that Laura liked their new neighbor?
- ⊗ To make the Ingalls home complete, Ma put something in the house that was very special to the family. What was it?
 - Think about the things in your home. What would be one special thing that your family would put in a new home to make it feel like home?
 - Why would you choose that?

Chapters 11 ~ 16: Problems of Living on the Prairie

- ⊗ List the dangers and problems the Ingalls' family faces in these chapters.
 - Put these in order from the most to least dangerous for their family.
 - Explain why you consider the top of your list as the most dangerous to their family.
- ⊗ How could the Osage Indians and the Ingalls' family have learned to live together with problems?
 - Why did Pa insist that Jack remain tied up when he knew Indians were in the area?
 - What do you think the beads that Laura and Mary found at the camp had been used for by the Indians?

Chapters 17 ~ 19: Traveling on the Prairie

- ⊗ Pa, the Osage Indians and Mr. Edwards all had different reasons for their travels across the prairie. Explain what they were.
 - Imagine you are Ma, how did each of these travelers make a difference to you?
- ⊗ Compare and contrast the Christmas Laura, Mary and Carrie had with the Christmas you had with your family.
 - Use the Venn Diagram attached to write down some of your best ideas.

Chapters 20 - 24: The Osage Indians

- ⊗ Even though the settlers, like Pa Ingalls, and the Indians, like the one in the woods, seem quite different, in some ways they were the same.
 - Why did both Pa and the Indian in the woods want the panther killed?
 - Compare the celebration that Pa, Ma, Mary, and Laura had in chapter 21, *Indian Jamboree*, with the celebration the Indians were having at their jamboree.

- ⊗ Pa respected the Osage Indians.
 - Give some examples that show this respect.
 - How did Ma, Mary and Laura feel about the Indians?
 - Explain how sounds the Indians made affected the way the girls felt.
 - Why did Laura describe the Indian she saw riding by in chapter 24 as proud?

Chapters 25 - 26: How it All Ends

- ⊗ Pa received the news that his family would not be allowed to stay in Indian territory.
 - What did Pa decide to do? Explain why.
 - How would you feel if you were Laura and heard this news?
 - How long had their family been in Kansas?

- ⊗ As they began their travels to a new home again, Laura felt excited.
 - What could she be excited about?
 - Do you think Ma was excited? Why or why not?
 - Why was Pa's fiddle important to the Ingalls' family?

Finally.....Some things to think about....

- ⊗ Would you be more like Mary or Laura in this story? Why?

- ⊗ Pa's fiddle music was important to their family. What kind of music would you think is important to your family? What makes it important?

- ⊗ Even though Mary and Laura were school age, they didn't have a school to attend. What do you think they would have learned while they were living on the prairie?

Compare your family's typical day with that of Laura's family. Write ways your families would be the same and ways they would be different.



A Day in the Life of...



Laura's family....

My family...