

# Little House In The Big Woods

by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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## SYNOPSIS

Recalling her childhood sixty years earlier in the Big Woods of Wisconsin, Laura Ingalls Wilder narrates her life between the ages of four and five when she lived with her parents, Charles and Caroline, her older sister Mary and baby sister Carrie in a log house far from neighbors and towns. Pa and Ma work hard each day to lay up stores for the long winter. Pa traps and hunts animals for meat and furs. His homemade smokehouse, built from a hollow log, preserves their meat from bears and other wild animals. Their garden provides many varieties of vegetables. In addition there are barrels of salted fish and stacks of yellow cheeses. At hog-slaughtering time, there is fresh sausage, spare ribs, cracklings, head cheese, hams, and a roasted pig tail to share.

The girls play with simple toys. The pig's bladder becomes a balloon. Mary has a rag doll named Nettie; Laura, a homely corn cob doll named Susan. The girls enjoy making patterns in the frost on the window panes. They help Ma with the chores by freshening the beds, washing dishes, and taking turns at the butter churn. Pa plays with them when he returns each night. Their favorite game is Mad Dog, in which Pa crawls around on the floor and growls while the girls hide from him. Best of all, Pa plays his fiddle and sings folk songs, such as "Yankee Doodle," "Nellie Gray," and "The Arkansas Traveler."

Pa's stories about his and Grandpa's boyhood entertain the whole family. One story describes Grandpa's narrow escape from a panther. Another tells about Grandpa's new sled, which he took down the hill on Sunday when he was supposed to be studying his catechism. One of the stories about Pa describes how he is punished for staying in the woods too late at night and neglecting his chore of rounding up the cows for the night. Laura and Mary enjoy the long evenings because Pa spends more time in the house. They help him make lead bullets and watch as he cleans his gun.

Laura recalls the details of each special day. At Christmas, Pa whittles fancy shapes in a board and makes a shelf for Ma's Christmas present. The girls and Ma work busily in the kitchen to make food for the houseguests — Aunt Eliza, Uncle Peter, and the three cousins. Laura's present from Santa Claus is a treat — a rag doll, which she names Charlotte. On Sundays the girls must dress in their best, sit quietly, and play with their paper dolls. Ma reads from the Bible or from Pa's book, *The Wonders of the Animal World*. On her birthday Laura receives a little wooden man, five little cakes, and a new dress for Charlotte. Pa rounds out the evening by playing "Pop Goes the Weasel" and "Uncle Ned" on his fiddle.

While Pa walks to town to trade furs, Laura helps Ma with the evening chores. On their way to the barn, Ma finds a furry shape blocking the gate. She yells at Sukey and slaps her side before realizing that the big animal is a bear. Pa returns late from his trip. He, too, has had an adventure with a bear, but the "bear" turns out to be a burned tree stump. When the weather turns warm and the days grow longer, Pa has less to spend in play because he must use every daylight hour for work. A late snow falls, and Pa hurries to Grandpa's house to help with the sugar making.

After the men gather the maple sap, the whole family — cousins, aunts, and uncles — arrives at Grandpa's house for a festive evening. Grandma leaves her close watch of the bubbling maple sugar to dance a jig with Uncle George, who is home from the army. The children enjoy the dressed-up clothes and dancing feet of the adults. Everyone eats plenty from the table laden with meat, vegetables, and sweets. Laura falls asleep and wakes up at the foot of Grandma's bed.

When spring comes, Pa promises to take the girls to Pepin. In anticipation of the trip, the girls pretend they are "going to town" as they play in their playhouses under the trees. In Pepin they experience their first taste of town life. They explore the dry goods store and watch their parents select cloth, tobacco, store sugar, and a pair of galluses for Pa. The storekeeper gives each girl a candy heart and compliments Mary for her good looks. Before returning home, they eat their lunch by the lake, where Laura gathers pretty stones. She tears her pocket by trying to stuff too many stones into it.

In the summer neighbors visit them. Laura and Mary get into a fight about which is prettier — Mary's golden hair or Laura's plain brown hair. Pa spansks Laura for hitting her sister, but he consoles and reassures her that she is pretty in his eyes. The threshers bring a modern machine to help Pa harvest his oats. As fall returns, Pa hunts for fresh game. He enjoys the beauty of the animals and neglects to kill even one. The girls are glad that Pa spares the animals. Laura is pleased with her life in the cabin where she feels safe and secure and loved.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in Pepin, Wisconsin, in 1867, Laura Ingalls Wilder immortalized her native town late in her life when she wrote *Little House in the Big Woods* (1932) at the age of 65. The series of books that followed describe her pioneer experiences from age five to eighteen. *Farmer Boy* (1933) tells of her husband Alonzo's childhood; *Little House on the Prairie* (1935) narrates her adventures in Kansas. *On the Banks of Plum Creek* (1937), *By the Shores of Silver Lake* (1939), *Long Winter* (1940), *Little Town on the*

*Prairie* (1941) and *These Happy Golden Years* (1943) describe the rest of her early years — from the prairie to Minnesota, Dakota, her first teaching job at 15, and marriage. The mother of Rose Wilder Lane, also a writer, Laura Ingalls Wilder enjoyed a full life and satisfying career before her death in 1957 at the age of 90.

### CRITIC'S CORNER

Laura Wilder's most outstanding achievement is the whole-hearted acceptance and enjoyment of her simple autobiographical stories by children and adults. The success of the television series "Little House on the Prairie" attests to the appeal of the Ingalls family's adventures and to the underlying warmth and mutual respect of each member. The American Library Association honored her accomplishments by establishing the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award in 1954 for outstanding contributions to children's literature.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the difficulties and hardships faced by settlers.
2. To understand the relationship between the change of seasons and the food supply.
3. To evaluate the importance of entertainment and fun in family life.
4. To describe the pleasures of multi-family get-togethers.
5. To trace the division of labor among family members.
6. To note how family members rely on their own skills for necessities.
7. To express how respect for nature and wild creatures colors the Ingalls family's lives.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze how Laura's parents teach her basic values, such as honesty and obedience.
2. To evaluate the relationships of family members, including the grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.
3. To describe specific instances in which family members are brave.
4. To contrast Laura's experiences at home with her first visit to town.
5. To determine Laura's self-concept and evaluate how Mary's beauty affects Laura.
6. To evaluate illustrative stories from the past in terms of their use as teaching tools.
7. To identify major themes in frontier songs and hymns.
8. To evaluate Pa's creative urge and contrast it with Ma's simpler homespun skills.

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. "the beautiful dark red buttons that buttoned the basque up the front," p. 128.

*(Ma's favorite dress has a tightly-constructed bodice or basque which is lined with whalebone to mold and preserve its shape.)*

2. I'll wear my delaine, p. 128.  
*(A fine grade of wool, often blended with cotton fibers, which is lightweight and therefore more suitable for women's and children's dresses and suits.)*
3. Laura lay awake in the trundle bed, p. 3.  
*(A low bed on wheels or casters which can be pushed out of the way under a higher bed or sofa when not in use.)*
4. Each had on his shoulders a wooden yoke, p. 135.  
*(A crude wooden device which fits over the shoulders and evenly distributes the weight of two pails, one on each side, to facilitate carrying awkward burdens, such as sloshing liquids, sand, or building materials.)*
5. Pa called the figures, p. 144.  
*(A set pattern of steps executed by a group of dancers. The order of the figures is decided by a caller, who yells out instructions to the dancers.)*
6. cheese could not be made without rennet, p. 186.  
*(A segment of the membrane which lines the stomach of an unweaned animal. Rennin, the hormone which is extracted from the fourth stomach of a calf, curdles milk, which is then drained and shaped into cheese.)*
7. he drank the whey, p. 192.  
*(The thin, watery part of milk which separates from the curd when milk coagulates into cheese.)*
8. the threshers had come, p. 221.  
*(A traditional cooperative activity among farmers in which groups of workers meet at a farm to harvest grain, separate the grain heads from the stalks, and bind the hay into bales. Then the group moves on to the next farm until each family's grain had been harvested. Women and children participate, cooking large meals for the hungry harvesters and carrying water to the workers.)*
9. days of auld lang syne, p. 237.  
*(Scottish phrase meaning "old long since" and a traditional Scottish ballad sung at the beginning of the new year. The point of the song is a remembrance of good times in the past.)*
10. study their catechism, p. 89.  
*(A series of questions and answers which teach the principles of religion. Children memorize the catechism by reciting each segment aloud.)*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the book.

#### Questions 1 — 5 Literal Level

1. How does Pa demonstrate proper care of the firearms to his family?  
*(Pa's detailed demonstrations of gun care are important to a family which must be ready to defend itself against the dangers of the wild. Pa cleans his gun carefully after a day in the snowy*

woods to remove all traces of powder smoke. He fastens a cloth to the ramrod, pours boiling water through the barrel and drops in the ramrod to clean the inside. When the water runs clean, he uses a greased rag to oil the metal parts. Then he rubs and polishes the stock.

The girls help Pa reload the gun. Laura hands him the powder horn, Mary gives him the patch box. After pounding down the load, Pa carefully raises the hammer, inserts a cap over the pin, and slowly lets the hammer down. He keeps the loaded gun over the door on two wooden hooks where it is ready against any danger.)

2. How were Sabbaths observed when Grandpa was young?  
(Grandpa's observance of the Sabbath began at sundown on Saturday night. All work and play halted. Supper, followed by oral Bible reading and prayer, was solemn. Grandpa went silently to bed. No food was cooked on Sunday, so all meals were eaten cold.

Dressed in their best, the family walked silently to church. After a two-hour sermon, during which the children sat motionless and attentive, the family walked home, ate a cold lunch, and studied their catechism. Any variation, such as laughter or fun, was sternly punished after the Sabbath had ended.)

3. How do Laura and Mary's activities change when the snow melts?  
(Both girls look forward to being outdoors in the spring. Their shoes are oiled and stored when the girls begin to go barefoot. They make playhouses under the oak trees in front of the cabin. With a carpet of grass and a roof of leaves, they sit in make-believe parlors and treat Charlotte and Nettie to tea in leaf cups and saucers on a rock, which serves as a table. Laura shares her bark swing with Mary. More frequent visitors enliven the cabin when neighbors and relatives renew their acquaintance after the isolation of winter.)
4. How does Grandpa prepare the maple sap for sugar-making?  
(After he gathers buckets of sap from the maple trees, Grandpa empties the sap into an iron kettle and boils it carefully, skimming the top with a wooden ladle. He controls the temperature by lifting spoonfuls of hot liquid high into the air and pouring it back slowly. When the sap boils down, he fills the buckets with syrup. Then he boils the remaining sap to the graining stage for brown sugar, which he ladles into milk pans at just the right moment.)
5. How does Ma prepare butter?  
(Ma puts cream into the crockery churn and sets it near the warm stove. She uses grated carrot to give the finished product a yellow color. Before the churning begins, Ma scalds the dash. She and Mary take turns moving the dash up and down. As the mixture thickens, Ma churns more slowly, then removes the thickened lump from the the buttermilk, washes it many times in cold water, and salts it.

Using a wooden mold with a strawberry carved in the bottom, Ma packs the butter tightly inside. When she pushes the finished mound of butter onto a dish, it has the shape of the strawberry on top. The girls are rewarded with a drink of fresh buttermilk.)

## Questions 6 — 8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Charley learn to obey his father?  
(When Pa and Uncle Henry take Charley to the fields to help with the haying, Charley is deliberately obstructive. He gets in the way, hides their whetstone, and dawdles with the water jug. He worries the men with questions and unnecessary talk; they send him away.

Charley sets up a howl to draw attention to himself. When the men stop work and run to his rescue, they find him laughing at his trick. The fourth time Charley screams, the men ignore him until his screams become louder, shriller, and longer than the first times. Charley has stepped on a yellow jackets' nest. As he lies on the bed, swathed in mud and bandages, he is a pitiful sight to the girls.)

7. How do Mary and her cousins react to Laura's new doll?  
(The children receive mittens and peppermint sticks in their stockings. In addition to what the other children receive, Laura gets a rag doll. Because Laura is the youngest child, not counting the babies who are too small to know about Santa Claus, the girls understand and are not jealous. Laura lets Mary, Alice, and Ella hold Charlotte, smooth her dress, and admire her stockings, gaiters, and wool hair. She is careful, however, not to praise Charlotte too highly in front of Susan, who might be offended.)
8. Why does Grandma try to outdance Uncle George?  
Grandma superintends the sugar making in the kitchen, but she takes time out from her chores to dance a jig with George, Laura's wild uncle. As George begins to tire, people enliven the competition by taunting him. George doubles his efforts, but eventually quits. Grandma continues the dance, laughing at George until she remembers the thickening syrup on the stove. Grandma's dance shows her eagerness to be a part of the fun and to compete with her children to indicate that she still has spirit and energy.)

## Questions 9 and 10 — Critical Level

9. How does Ma contribute to Laura's concern for her plainness?  
(Laura is always aware of Mary's primness, perfect behavior, and golden-hair beauty. Ma causes an unnecessary comparison when she urges the girls to run to meet Aunt Lotty and ask her which she likes best, brown or golden curls. Mary, eager to garner one more compliment, does as Ma asks, but Aunt Lotty refuses to take sides. Laura's spirits soar as she feels the warmth of acceptance and love.

Later that evening, as the girls gather chips for the fire, Mary flaunts her golden curls. Laura, in exasperation, hits Mary, indicating her frustration with invidious comparisons. Pa administers the necessary punishment, then soothes Laura's hurt feelings by noting that he, too, has brown hair. When Laura sees her beloved Pa in this light, she brightens up and gloats over Mary's punishment — having to finish the chip gathering alone.)

10. How do both parents balance work and play so that the children enjoy their life in the Wisconsin woods?  
(Although life in Pepin, Wisconsin, can be harsh, Caroline and Charles Ingalls encourage Mary and Laura to enjoy the positive aspects of their isolated life and to understand the

*dangers so that they will not be unduly afraid. Pa's gun stays ready for action; he arms himself carefully when he journey's from the house. Pa's stories illustrate the necessity for preparedness. The girls learn to be wary of dangers, but not to live in constant fear.*

*Natural treats come their way, such as brown sugar, honey, a roasted pig tail, straw for new hats, and the inflated pig's bladder, and the children abandon chores for the moment. When danger threatens, such as the bear Ma mistakes for Sukey, Ma rewards Laura with praise for her obedience and level-headedness. As days grow short, the children avoid boredom in the house by increasing their enjoyment of Pa and his good humor. When the days again grow long, the girls play together while Pa increases his hours of work in the fields. The secret to the family's successful life in the Big Woods is balance — each hardship is countered by the attendant joys of the season.)*

### Question 11 — Creative Level

11. If Laura and Mary were visiting you, what pleasures would you offer them? What foods and toys would be new to them? What would you try to learn from the Ingalls girls? Write a paragraph detailing their visit and your mutual exchange of ideas. Emphasize everyone's reactions with dialogue.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Play recordings of early American folk music performed on a variety of instruments — zither, spoons, banjo, fiddle, auto-harp, dulcimer, recorder, concertina, musical saw, juice harp, jug, harmonica. Make posters of words to familiar tunes, such as "Oh, Susanna," "Turkey in the Straw," "Ole Dan Tucker," "The River is Wide," "Shenandoah," and "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain" and add new verses.
2. Teach students the basic steps of square dancing and folk dances, such as the Virginia Reel and the Hokey-Pokey. Arrange for an outside caller to organize a dance. Invite parents to observe and participate. Serve simple refreshments, such as cider, popcorn, and taffy.
3. Divide students into groups of five and have each group explain or demonstrate a pioneer skill, such as drying and stretching skins, making maple sugar, hulling corn, making soap and candles, preserving fruit, notching logs, spinning and weaving, dyeing, and cheese making.
4. Read aloud from one of the eight books in the Foxfire series, edited by Elliot Wigginton. Choose a section which illustrates the self-reliance of early pioneers.
5. Sketch the layout of an early dry goods store, labeling the various tools, foodstuffs, sewing supplies, farming supplies, toys, and clothing which pioneer families would need. Show how the storekeeper weighed, measured, and packaged produce.
6. Keep a diary from Ma's point of view. Detail her fears and concerns for the children and her hopes for their future. Include her memories of important events in her life, such as the night she slapped the bear.
7. Make a list of the twenty-five most important items you would take with you if you were moving to the big woods. Divide

your list into food and kitchen supplies, recreation equipment, clothing and bedding, tools, and raw materials.

8. Compose an episode about a pioneer space family that leaves earth to establish the first colony on a distant planet. Include the feelings of the family as they bid farewell to family and friends.
9. Write a paragraph about growing up in an isolated area without neighbors, churches, stores, or schools. Explain both the advantages and disadvantages of such a life.
10. Make a timeline showing the chronological order of the following early American's lives: Governor Winthrop, Roger Williams, William Penn, Judge Hathorne, Crispus Attucks, Anne Bradstreet, the Lost Colony, Jonathan Edwards, Phyllis Wheatley, Virginia Dare, Lewis and Clark, Jim Bridger, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Sarah Kemble Knight, Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Nat Turner, Governor William Byrd, Cotton Mather, Captain John Smith. Note beside each their accomplishments.
11. Make a map of the United States and note the date when each was settled and the nationalities of its early settlers. Be sure to include Hawaii and Alaska. Place a star at the sight of the first town; place an X for each frontier fortress.

# LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS

## VOCABULARY TEST

Complete the sentences below with vocabulary words from the story. Place the letter of your answer in the blank at the left. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The hams and shoulders were to pickle in \_\_\_\_\_, for they would be smoked, like the venison, in the hollow log.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Muskrats and mink and \_\_\_\_\_ lived by the streams.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Her father's gun hung over the door and good old Jack, the \_\_\_\_\_ bulldog, lay on guard before it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One of the little boards he shaped in a lovely curve, and around its edges he carved leaves and flowers and stars, and through it he cut crescent moons and \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. There is a big bonfire under the kettle, and the \_\_\_\_\_ boils, and Grandpa watches it carefully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The floor was made of wide, thick slabs that Grandpa had \_\_\_\_\_ from the logs with his ax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Then Pa got for himself a pair of \_\_\_\_\_ and some tobacco to smoke in his pipe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Giddap there, John! No use trying to \_\_\_\_\_!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. So they all got into the big \_\_\_\_\_, cosy and warm, and Pa tucked the last robe well in around them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Ma slipped piping hot baked potatoes into their pockets to keep their fingers warm, and Aunt Eliza's \_\_\_\_\_ were hot on the stove, ready to put at their feet in the sled.

- |            |              |             |            |            |
|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| A. bladder | D. brine     | G. galluses | J. otter   | M. shirk   |
| B. bobsled | E. curlicues | H. hewed    | K. ramrods | N. skimmed |
| C. brindle | F. flatirons | I. hulled   | L. sap     | O. trough  |

## TEST A

### Part I: Fill - In (20 points)

Name the character who makes the following statements.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Pick up the pretty pebbles, Laura, . . . and another time, don't be so greedy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. A man just has to keep everlasting at it, or the woods'll take back the place.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The syrup is waxing. Come and help yourselves.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. That's a pretty little girl you've got there.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Golden hair is lots prettier than brown.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Is the moon really made of green cheese?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. I fooled you that time!  
\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Every time I opened the door so much as a crack, Prince acted like he would tear me to pieces.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Isn't there even one stocking with nothing but a switch in it?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10. I'm beat!

### Part II: Matching (30 points)

Match the following actions with the right character. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will use some names more than once; some you will not use at all.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. lies on the bed wrapped in mud and bandages.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. receives a candy heart with a four-line poem on it.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. blows a bugle to begin the dance.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. tells a story about the voice in the woods.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. makes bullets out of lead.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. ladles out enough syrup for all the guests to have some.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. has to fill the chip pan alone.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 8. saves a special dress in tissue paper.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 9. brings Ma a red apple stuck full of cloves.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10. cries over a torn pocket.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Mary and Laura's baby sister.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 12. speaks only Swedish.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 13. makes a collar pin out of sealing wax.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 14. ran away to become a drummer boy in the army.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 15. makes ten new wooden buckets to gather the maple sap.

- |                     |                    |                  |                  |                 |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| A. Aunt Eliza       | D. Carrie Ingalls  | G. Grandma       | J. Mary Ingalls  | M. storekeeper  |
| B. Aunt Ruby        | E. Charles Ingalls | H. Grandpa       | K. Mrs. Huleatt  | N. Uncle George |
| C. Carolina Ingalls | F. Charley         | I. Laura Ingalls | L. Mrs. Peterson | O. Uncle Peter  |



## TEST B

### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Select the name of an object or objects to fill each blank. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ma uses \_\_\_\_\_ to soak the shelled corn in.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Cheese is shaped in a \_\_\_\_\_ and weighted with a rock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ made of a steel blade in a framework of wooden slats is used to cut oats.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pa makes a white balloon out of a \_\_\_\_\_ for Mary and Laura to play with.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. For her birthday Laura receives a \_\_\_\_\_ whittled out of a stick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A \_\_\_\_\_ made of tough bark hangs from Laura's tree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Each day Charlotte and Nettie receive fresh \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Ma winds each curl around a \_\_\_\_\_ with a wet comb.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Aunt Polly soothes Charley's fever with \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. For Christmas, Charles makes Caroline a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Ma uses \_\_\_\_\_ to color the white butter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Black Susan has her own \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the needle-book keeps the needles from rusting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The children jump off stumps to make \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Ma gives Laura \_\_\_\_\_ for her birthday.

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. acorn cups and saucers | K. little wooden man                  |
| B. ashes from the hearth  | L. new dress for Charlotte            |
| C. bit of rag             | M. paper dolls                        |
| D. buckskin bag           | N. picture of Adam naming the animals |
| E. cradle                 | O. pictures in the snow               |
| F. five little cakes      | P. pig's bladder                      |
| G. grated carrot          | Q. swing                              |
| H. wooden hoop            | R. swinging door                      |
| I. herb tea               | S. white flannel                      |
| J. leaf hats              | T. wooden bracket                     |



**Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)**

Choose the correct answer for each of the following questions. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After the dance, Laura falls asleep and wakes up
- A. in Uncle Peter's bobsled.
  - B. rolled in a blanket near the fireplace.
  - C. at the foot of Grandma's bed.
  - D. in her own trundle bed in the attic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. As the wagon reaches Pepin, Laura catches sight of
- A. a grove of maple trees.
  - B. the smooth yellow boards on the sides of the church,
  - C. the blue water of Lake Pepin.
  - D. a deer and her young fawn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pa mistakes a burned tree trunk for
- A. a panther.
  - B. a bear.
  - C. Sukey.
  - D. a smokehouse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Both Laura and Mary give Carrie
- A. dough to make a small loaf.
  - B. a corncob doll.
  - C. their candy hearts.
  - D. half a cookie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Laura keeps a close watch on Uncle George because
- A. Pa says Uncle George is wild.
  - B. he promised to dance a jig for her.
  - C. he is carving curlicues in a piece of wood.
  - D. he is holding Charlotte on his knee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Grandpa gives Pa a good thrashing for
- A. taking the whetstone.
  - B. lying.
  - C. complaining about Sunday.
  - D. staying too late in the woods.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Prince uses his teeth to pull Aunt Eliza back from the
- A. bear in the corral.
  - B. panther in the big oak.
  - C. snow bank by the door.
  - D. pig on James's lap.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A late snow lengthens the
- A. grain harvest.
  - B. time that bees make honey.
  - C. berry-picking season.
  - D. run of sap.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Pa helps the children sleep by
- A. playing his fiddle.
  - B. reading from his books on animals.
  - C. telling stories about Grandpa's boyhood.
  - D. putting baked potatoes near their cold feet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mary would rather eat bread and butter than
- A. help bake the journey-cake.
  - B. have Pa shoot a deer.
  - C. stir Grandma's hasty pudding.
  - D. hull corn for breakfast.

### Part III: Quotation Completion (20 points)

Match parts of quotations. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. He was too tired that night to talk to Laura,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. They knew that Pa would trade his furs to the storekeeper for beautiful things from town,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. One night her father picked her up out of bed and carried her to the window
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Roasting the pig's tail was such fun
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. He rubbed [the traps] bright and greased the hinges of the jaws and the springs of the pans
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. If they burned their fingers, that was their own fault;
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After dinner their father sat down to read the Bible,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. She went to the door and pulled the leather latch-string through its hole in the door,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Ma had been very fashionable, before she married Pa,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The big room filled with tall boots and swishing skirts,

- A. so that she might see the wolves.
- B. that it was hard to play fair; taking turns.
- C. with a feather dipped in bear's grease.
- D. they should have minded him.
- E. and partners bowed and separated and met and bowed again.
- F. and Grandpa and James and George sat as still as mice on their bench with their catechism.
- G. so it would lie flat after it was sewed.
- H. and all day they were expecting the presents he would bring them.
- I. so that nobody could get in from outside unless she lifted the latch.
- J. and a little paper package of store sugar to have in the house when company came.
- K. and a dressmaker had made her clothes.
- L. and next day they tried to play going to town.
- M. and ever so many babies were lying in rows on Grandma's bed.
- N. and there were the tracks of a deer that had bounded away into the woods.
- O. but Laura was proud of him.

### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe how Pa soothes Laura's worry over her brown hair.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain how Charley learns to be obedient.

## LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS ANSWER KEY

### Vocabulary

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. H  |
| 2. J | 7. G  |
| 3. C | 8. M  |
| 4. E | 9. B  |
| 5. L | 10. F |

### TEST A

#### Part I: Fill-In (20 points)

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ma (Caroline) | 6. Laura         |
| 2. Pa (Charles)  | 7. Charley       |
| 3. Grandma       | 8. Aunt Eliza    |
| 4. storekeeper   | 9. Uncle Peter   |
| 5. Mary          | 10. Uncle George |

#### Part II: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. G  | 11. D |
| 2. J | 7. J  | 12. L |
| 3. N | 8. C  | 13. B |
| 4. E | 9. A  | 14. N |
| 5. E | 10. I | 15. H |

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T  |
| 2. F | 7. F  |
| 3. T | 8. F  |
| 4. F | 9. F  |
| 5. T | 10. T |

#### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

### TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. Q  | 11. G |
| 2. H | 7. J  | 12. R |
| 3. E | 8. C  | 13. S |
| 4. P | 9. I  | 14. O |
| 5. K | 10. T | 15. F |

#### Part II: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. D  |
| 2. C | 7. B  |
| 3. B | 8. D  |
| 4. D | 9. A  |
| 5. A | 10. B |

#### Part III: Quotation Completion (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. O | 6. D  |
| 2. H | 7. F  |
| 3. A | 8. I  |
| 4. B | 9. K  |
| 5. C | 10. M |

#### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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