

Lesson 3: Winter Days and Winter Nights

Getting Started

? Questions to Explore

- How are family members dependent on one another?



Facts and Definitions

- Every family member on a farm has chores and responsibilities.

⦿ Skills

- Interact with the text by making connections, answering questions, and locating information. (LA)
- Respond to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using interpretive and evaluative processes. (LA)
- Relate plot, setting, and characters to own experiences and ideas. (LA)
- Use planning strategies to organize ideas. (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- colored pencils or markers
- journal

Introduction

Ask your child why a person's home is so important. Ask him why we must take care of our homes and discuss how homes protect people from the weather, giving them a place to cook, eat, and sleep.

Reading and Questions

Today your child will read the chapter "Winter Days and Winter Nights." Then he can answer two of the following questions in his journal and two in a discussion.

1. What chore days did Laura enjoy most?

She liked the churning and baking days (Thursday and Saturday) best of all.

2. Why did the family make their own butter and eat animals from the woods?

Your child should understand that the family lived in a remote area. They needed to provide food for themselves because there was no store they could easily go to.

3. How are winters at your home similar to/different from winters for Laura? Do you enjoy the winter? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

4. How did you feel when you read the story of Grandpa and the panther? What words or phrases did the author use to make the story more exciting?

Answers will vary. Your child may mention some of the verbs like "screamed" and "leaped" or descriptions of the panther like "enormous slashing claws"

Activities

Activity 1: Life in the Woods vs. Life Today

On the page, "Life in the Big Woods vs. Life Today," (from Lesson 2) your child can record one thing that he learned about life in the woods.

Activity 2: Chores and Family Roles

Discuss the division of labor that existed on the homestead for the pioneers. Ask your child why it was important that every family member help out on the homestead. Explain that as children on the farm got older, they gained responsibility. Discuss some of the responsibilities your own family members have. Assign one of the following options. The second option is more challenging.

Option 1

For this option, your child is provided with a list of responsibilities and chores in the box at the top of the page "Chores and Family Roles" (Option 1) page. He will write them next to the name of the character who performed them in the book. On the second chart, your child will write the names of people in his own family and record their jobs and responsibilities. Some of the chores may be shared by more than one family member.

Answer Key:

- Ma: cooking and churning butter (your child may also mention cleaning dishes)
- Pa: hunting and fishing
- Mary and Laura: cleaning dishes and making the bed

Option 2

For this option, your child will use the Chores and Family Roles" (Option 2) sheet to record chores and jobs for each character in the story, writing them next to the name of the person who performed them. Answers may vary. Refer to the Option 1 answer key for possible answers. Other chores may include chopping wood, preparing meat, and washing/ironing/mending clothes.

On the second chart, your child will write the names of people in his family and their jobs and responsibilities. When your child is finished, discuss how Laura's family's chores are similar to and different from those in her own family.

Activity 3: Homes Today and Yesterday

Ask your child how living in a log cabin in the woods in the late 1800s would be different from living in his own house today. Let your child reread the description on page 4, paragraph 2 of Laura's home. On the page, "Homes Today and Yesterday," your child will illustrate Laura's house in the first box and his own house in the second box. At the bottom of the page, he can record two ways his house is similar to Laura's house and two ways it is different.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to describe what life was like for Laura in the winter. Ask him how Laura's family and home are similar to his own.

Life Application

Cook something with your child for the family, such as bread, cookies, or dinner. Give your child tasks to do. Discuss how two people can accomplish more than one person can.

Chores and Family Roles

Directions: Write each responsibility or chore next to the name of the character who performed it in the book. On the second chart, write the names of people in your own family and record the jobs and responsibilities that the different members have.



cooking churning butter	cleaning dishes fishing	making the bed hunting
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Laura's Family

Family Member:	Chores or Responsibilities:
Ma	
Pa	
Mary	
Laura	

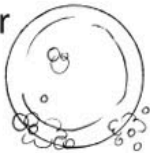
My Family

Family Member:	Chores or Responsibilities:

Chores and Family Roles



Directions: Record chores and jobs that each character had in the story and write them next to the name of the person who performed them. Then, on the second chart, record the names of people in your family and write the jobs and responsibilities that the different members have.



Laura's Family

Family Member:	Chores or Responsibilities:
Ma	
Pa	
Mary	
Laura	



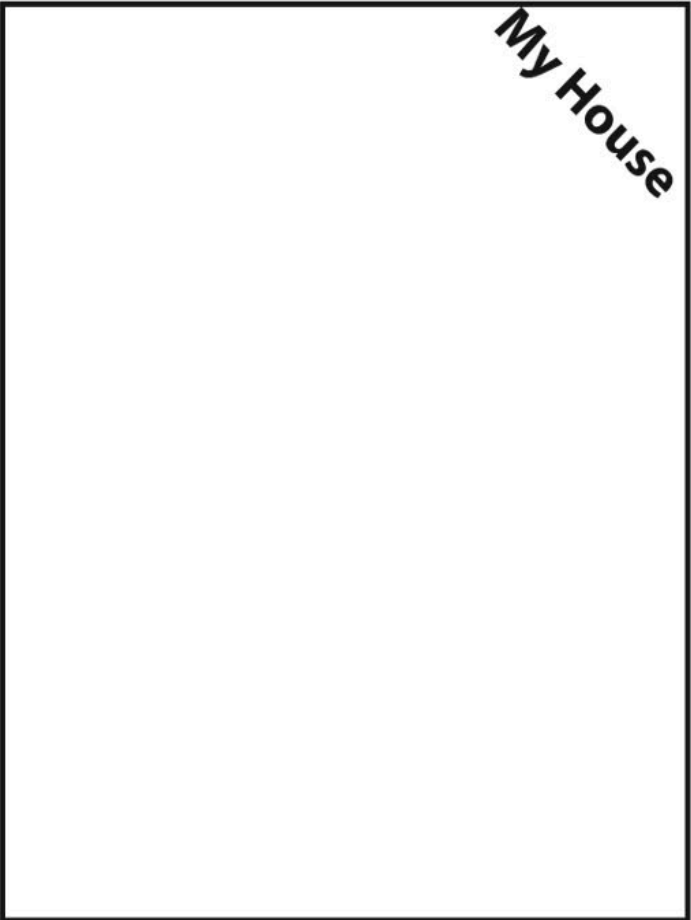
My Family

Family Member:	Chores or Responsibilities:

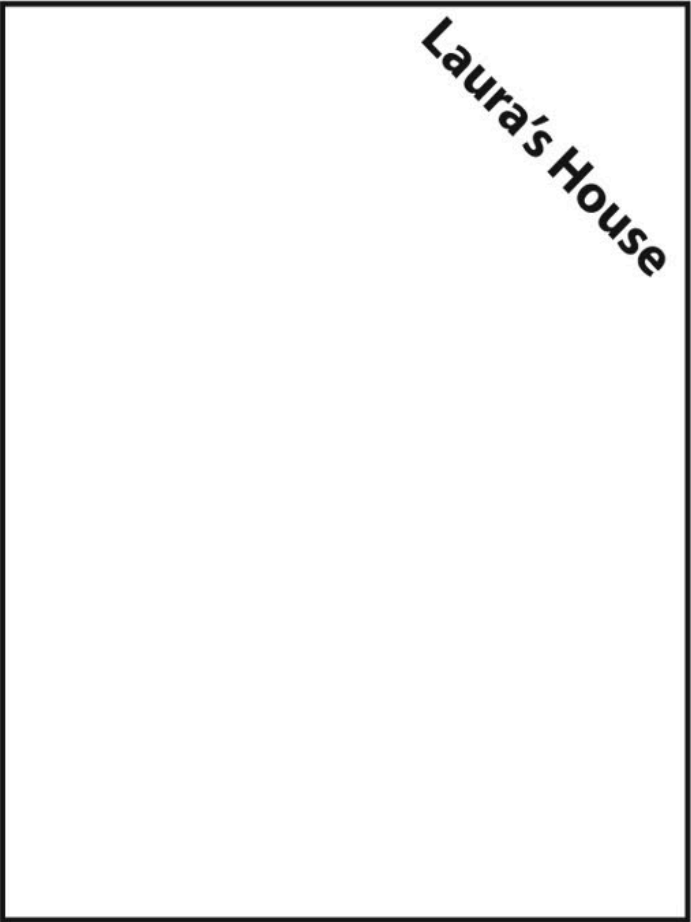
Homes of Today and Yesterday

Directions: Illustrate each of the two homes. Then compare your home to the one in which Laura lived by listing similarities and differences on the bottom of the page.

My House



Laura's House



Similarities:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Differences:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____