

Lesson 4: The Long Rifle

Getting Started

? Questions to Explore

- How do family members depend on one another?



Facts and Definitions

- People's names, the beginning letter of a sentence, geographical place names, holidays, days of the week, months of the year, and titles should be capitalized.

⦿ Skills

- Use correct capitalization in writing. (LA)
- Share an oral project through presentation. (LA)
- Identify (with assistance) the purpose, audience, and appropriate format for an oral presentation. (LA)
- Connect own experiences with the experiences, language, customs, and culture of others through speaking and listening. (LA)
- Adapt speech communication to the audience, purpose, and occasion. (LA)
- Compare language and oral traditions (family stories) that reflect customs, regions, and cultures. (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- journal

Introduction

Tell your child that in today's reading, Laura and Mary will spend time with their father. Ask your child what she likes to do with her father. Discuss that family members need one another, not just to help out with the chores, but also for love and support.

Reading and Questions

Today your child will read the chapter "The Long Rifle" and answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Pa made his own bullets?

Answers will vary, but your child should understand that many items would be difficult for the family to purchase, so they had to make most things themselves.

2. Retell the story (out loud) that Pa told the girls about the time he went looking for the cows in the woods.

Answers will vary but should include the following plot: Pa had to bring the cows home from the woods every day, and he was not supposed to play on his way because the cows had to get home before dark due to wild animals. On one particular day, he was pretending to be a hunter, but when he was done, it was dark in the woods, and he could not find the cows. As he was searching, he heard a voice in the woods repeat, "who?", and then he ran all the way home. His father punished him for disobeying.

3. Why do you think Pa told Laura and Mary the story about the cows and not obeying his father?

Answers will vary.

4. Can you think of a time you did not listen to your mom or dad and things turned out badly?

Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Life in the Woods vs. Life Today

On the "Life in the Big Woods vs. Life Today" page (from Lesson 2), your child can record one thing that she learned about how life in the woods was different from her own life today.

Activity 2: Storytelling

Explain to your child that in the past, there were no TVs, movies, or video games. One thing that people did for entertainment was tell stories. Stories are an important tradition in all cultures. They let older family members share memories with younger family members. Share a story with your child about something that happened to you as a child. Tell it as if you were a professional storyteller!

Give your child a try at storytelling. Ask her to make up a story to tell the family about an adventure she had in the Big Woods. Discuss ways that storytellers make their stories more interesting (including vivid details, using exciting language, giving characters different voices, and using their hands and body when speaking.)

Let your child practice her story before sharing it with the family.

Activity 3: Capitalization Rules

Review the rules of capitalization. Your child should know that people's names and the first letter of a sentence should be capitalized. Discuss these additional capitalization rules:

- Geographical place names (like cities, states, countries and the names of places like lakes or parks)
- Days of the week and months of the year
- Holidays (like New Years Day or Thanksgiving)
- Titles of books, stories, songs, poems, etc. The first and last word in a title are always capitalized. Small words like *and*, *or*, *a*, *the*, and *of* are not capitalized (unless they are the first or last word of the title). All nouns and verbs in the title are capitalized, no matter how small they are (for example, "is" and "go" are small words, but since they are verbs, they are capitalized).

Choose one of the following options for your child to complete.

Option 1

On the page "Capitalization Rules" (Option 1) page, your child will rewrite each sentence and capitalize all the words that should be capitalized.

Answer Key:

- The winter months, especially February, are very cold months in the state of Wisconsin.
- Laura and Mary got bored sitting inside all day, but they did like to read the Bible.
- Black Susan, the cat, likes to stretch out in front of the fire on cold days.
- This chapter has a section called "The Story of Pa and the Voice in the Woods."

- The family was getting ready for Christmas in the Big Woods.

Option 2

For this activity, your child will find a variety of words, names, and titles from the story. Using the page, "Capitalization Rules" (Option 2), she will write five sentences about the characters and events in the story. Explain that each sentence should contain at least two nouns that are capitalized. Not all the words in the list need to be capitalized, so your child will have to decide which ones do and which ones do not.

Here is the list with the correct capitalization:

- Row 1: Laura, winter, panther, Jack, doll, Big Woods
- Row 2: Jack Frost, Ma, Wisconsin, Christmas, Uncle Henry, "The Story of Pa and the Voice in the Woods"
- Row 3: cows, owl, Black Susan, Mary, Grandpa, "The Long Rifle"

Wrapping Up

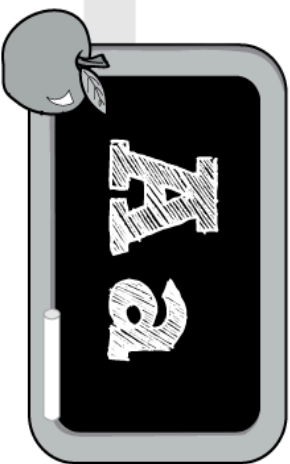
Ask your child why storytelling is such an important part of a culture. Let her explain ways that family members depend on one another.

Ask your child which nouns should be capitalized (people's names, the first word of a sentence, most words in a book or story title, days of the week, months of the year, holidays, and geographical place names).

Life Application

If possible, find a place where your child can listen to a professional storyteller. Discuss how the storyteller got the attention of the audience and why people wanted to listen to him or her.

Capitalization Rules



Directions: Rewrite each sentence and capitalize all the words that should be capitalized.

the winter months, especially february, are very cold months in the state of wisconsin.

laura and mary got bored sitting inside all day, but they did like to read the bible.

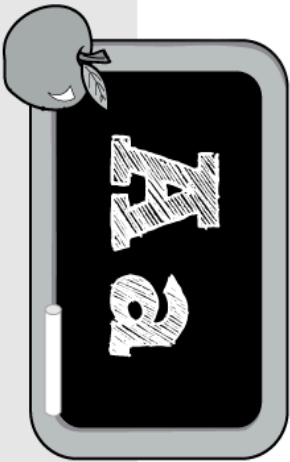
black susan, the cat, likes to stretch out in front of the fire on cold days.

this chapter has a section called "the story of pa and the voice in the woods."

the family was getting ready for christmas in the big woods.

Capitalization Rules

Directions: Write 5 sentences about the book. For each sentence, choose at least two words/phrases from the list below that should be capitalized. Not all of the items in the box should be capitalized.



laura	winter	panther	jack	doll	big woods
jack frost	ma	wisconsin	christmas	uncle henry	"the story of pa and the voice in the woods"
cows	owl	black susan	mary	grandpa	"the long rifle"

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____