

LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS**by Laura Ingalls Wilder****Multiple Choice (Chapters 1 and 2)**

In 1871, Laura Ingalls and her family all lived in a gray log house at the edge of the Big Woods in Wisconsin. In Chapter One, "Little House in the Big Woods," and Chapter Two, "Winter Days and Winter Nights," we first meet the Ingalls family. Although life was not easy for a pioneer family like Laura's, they worked and played together as they made a home in the wilderness.

1. The Ingalls family lived in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. Laura wrote that the Big Woods were so big a person could walk for how long and still see trees?
 - a. a year
 - b. a day
 - c. two weeks
 - d. a month
2. Once winter arrived in the Big Woods, Jack Frost made patterns on the windows of the log cabin. How did Laura describe Jack Frost?
 - a. a little man all snowy white
 - b. an elf in white boots
 - c. a tiny man with an icicle on his hat
 - d. a green leaf shaped man
3. Laura's mother had a certain list of chores for each day of the week. She washed on Monday, ironed on Tuesday, mended on Wednesday, churned on Thursday, cleaned on Friday, baked on Saturday and rested on Sunday. Which two days did Laura like best?
 - a. cleaning and churning
 - b. churning and baking
 - c. resting and mending
 - d. washing and ironing
4. At night, after all the chores were done, Pa liked to play a game with Laura and Mary. What did Laura call the game?
 - a. mad bull
 - b. howling cat
 - c. mad dog
 - d. panther man
5. Laura liked Pa to tell stories. Once he told a story about Laura's grandpa and which animal?
 - a. dog
 - b. panther
 - c. buffalo
 - d. pig

LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS
by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Reflection Questions (Chapters 1 and 2)

1. Laura's family lived over one hundred years ago. In what ways is Laura's life different from yours? In what ways is your life the same as Laura's? How is your home different than Laura's?

2. When we run out of food or something else we need, most of us are close to a store where we can buy more. Laura's family lived in a Big Woods where there was no store nearby. If they ran out of something, they learned to do without until they could make a trip to a town. They had to grow or catch almost everything they ate. They had to store food to last all winter so it wouldn't spoil. Do you remember some of the ways the Ingalls family stored their food? Do you know anyone who still stores food this way? How do you store your food?

3. Laura and her sister, Mary, each had chores to do each day. What about you? Do you have certain chores or jobs you must do each day? Are your chores different or the same as Laura's?
Did your parents have chores when they were children? Did they do the same chores as you or Laura? What about your grandparents?

4. Before you read this book, did you know the meaning of the following words? Do you know what they mean now? (Write the definition next to the word).
 - A. Venison
 - B. Thimble
 - C. Churning
 - D. Bladder
 - E. Crackling
 - F. Flannel

LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS**by Laura Ingalls Wilder****Multiple Choice (Chapters 3 and 4)**

In Chapter 3, "The Long Rifle," we read about an important tool for a pioneer family. Pa's rifle offered protection for the family and was also a necessary tool for hunting most of the meat the family ate. In Chapter 4, "Christmas," Laura writes about her family's Christmas celebration.

1. Once, when Pa was a little boy, he was sent to bring the cows home. Along the way he was frightened by what scary event?
 - a. a panther's cry
 - b. a voice in the woods
 - c. a menacing shadow
 - d. an angry bull

2. What was Pa really frightened by in the woods?
 - a. a screech owl
 - b. a panther
 - c. an angry cow
 - d. a shadow

3. As Christmas approached, Laura and Mary were allowed to make candy by pouring what two ingredients on a pan of snow?
 - a. molasses and sugar
 - b. sugar and cream
 - c. molasses and honey
 - d. cream and salt

4. Laura's Aunt Eliza, had a dog named what?
 - a. Pal
 - b. Prince
 - c. Patrick
 - d. Peter

5. Laura received a special gift that Christmas, a rag doll that she named Charlotte. Each of the other children found a piece of peppermint stick candy in their stockings and what other gift?
 - a. red stockings
 - b. blue mittens
 - c. more candy
 - d. red mittens

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Reflection Questions (Chapters 3 and 4)

1. Laura liked to hear Pa tell the story about the time he was a naughty little boy. She called it "The Voice in the Woods." Do you remember what animal really frightened Pa in the woods? Do you think he was so frightened because he felt guilty for not obeying his Father's order to come straight home? Have you ever been frightened like Pa? Did you later realize that whatever frightened you was really some simple sound or maybe a shadow of an everyday object? What happened?
2. Laura gives us a good description of what Christmas was like in her family. Can you give some examples of how Laura's Christmas is the same as Christmas today? How is it different? Are your Christmas celebrations the same or different than Laura's?
3. When the cousins, Alice, Ella and Peter came to visit, Laura and Mary played with them in the snow. Do you have cousins or other family who like to play in the snow? What games do you play? Have you ever made snow pictures as Laura's family did? Do you think children had more fun in Laura's time or yours?
4. Aunt Eliza told a story about her dog, Prince. When Aunt Eliza tried to get water from the spring, Prince would not let her go. Why? Do you think Prince saved Aunt Eliza's life? Do you have a pet? Would your pet save your life? If you don't have a pet, have you ever heard a story about a pet that did save someone's life? Can you tell what happened?
5. Do you think Laura had a happy Christmas? Can you tell about the happiest Christmas you ever spent?

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Multiple Choice (Chapters 5 and 6)

1. When Laura Ingalls was a little girl, a certain day of the week meant a bath the night before, best clothes and special behavior. Can you name the day of the week?
 - a. Monday
 - b. Sunday
 - c. Friday
 - d. Thursday
2. Laura was permitted to do only certain things on Sunday. She could look quietly at Pa's book, *The Wonders of the Animal World*, hold her doll, or look at her paper dolls. What activity was Laura forbidden to do?
 - a. run
 - b. shout
 - c. noisy play
 - d. all of the above
3. What happened when Grandpa and his brothers went to try out their new sled? What animal caught an unexpected ride?
 - a. a horse
 - b. a cow
 - c. a dog
 - d. a pig
4. In the chapter entitled "Two Big Bears," Laura writes that she and Mary have never seen what?
 - a. a bear
 - b. a town
 - c. a river
 - d. a road
5. When Laura and Ma went out to milk the cow, Sukey, they were surprised by what animal in the barnyard?
 - a. a second cow
 - b. a dog
 - c. a bear
 - d. a horse
6. Pa thought he saw a bear in the woods on his way home from town. What did he really see?
 - a. a horse
 - b. a tree stump
 - c. cow
 - d. another man

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Reflection Questions (Chapters 5 and 6)

1. In the 1870s, there were certain rules of behavior for Sundays. Laura describes how her family spent their Sundays. How are Sundays different today than they were in Laura's time? List five ways that Sundays have changed since Laura was a little girl. Do you think the changes are good or bad? Explain.

2. Laura tells the story of "Grandpa's Sled and the Pig." Did you think this story was funny? Why? Should Grandpa and his brothers have been riding the sled? Do you think their father should have punished them for being disobedient? Why?

3. In the chapter entitled "Sundays," Laura celebrates a birthday. Can you remember some of the gifts she received from her family? Were they gifts you would enjoy receiving yourself? Why?

4. When Spring came to the Big Woods, Pa went to town to trade his fur pelts for supplies. Were you surprised that Pa had to walk all day to get to town and back home again? How far do you think the town was from the Ingalls' home? Did you think it was odd that Laura and Mary had never seen a town? A store? How do you think Laura would feel if she came to visit your time and saw all the stores you see in a day?

5. Laura titled Chapter 6 "Two Big Bears." Is this a good title for this chapter? Why? How do you think Ma felt when she realized that she had slapped a bear instead of her gentle milk cow? What would you do if this happened to you? Did Ma do the right thing?

6. Pa sees what he thinks is a bear in the woods. What did he really see? Do you think Pa let his imagination run away with him? Why? Is this story almost the same as the story Pa told about "The Voice in the Woods"? Explain how they are the same. What lesson should Pa learn from this "bear"?

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Multiple Choice (Chapters 7 and 8)

What happens in the Big Woods when the weather sends a “Sugar Snow”? In Chapter 7, we read about making maple syrup. And what better way to celebrate a new run of maple syrup than with a “Dance At Grandpa’s” in Chapter 8?

1. What does Pa called a sudden snow that comes in the spring, after most of the winter snow has melted?
 - a. salt snow
 - b. spring snow
 - c. sugar snow
 - d. melted snow

2. The “blood” of the tree is called.....
 - a. sap
 - b. syrup
 - c. sugar
 - d. tree blood

3. Because the dance at Grandpa’s was a special occasion, Ma wore her beautiful delaine dress. What color and pattern was Ma’s delaine dress?
 - a. dark green with a pattern of ripe strawberries
 - b. dark green with a pattern of horses
 - c. red with a pattern of green strawberries
 - d. dark green with red grapes

4. At Grandma’s, she made a dish called hasty pudding. What is the main ingredient in hasty pudding?
 - a. corn cobs
 - b. corn meal
 - c. yellow oats
 - d. flour

5. Laura had a cousin named Laura. Both little girls fought over the same question. What did the Lauras fight about?
 - a. Whose Ma was prettier
 - b. Whose baby was prettier
 - c. How long Grandma cooked the syrup
 - d. Why Pa played the fiddle

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Reflection Questions (Chapters 7 and 8)

1. Snow late in the spring meant that the trees produce more maple syrup. When the sugar snow came, Pa was glad, because Grandpa would be able to make more maple syrup. Why do you think maple syrup was so important to the family?
2. Have you ever tasted maple syrup? Can you explain some of the steps in making maple syrup? What would you do first? Do you think you could make maple syrup if you had a maple tree in your yard? Why or why not?
3. Ma is so excited about the Dance at Grandpa's that she wears a special dress. Laura calls it a "delaine" dress. Do you know what a delaine dress is? Can you find the word in a dictionary? We also see two other words in this chapter that might not be familiar to us—*basque* and *whalebone*. Can you find definitions of these words?
4. At Grandma's, Laura also gives us good descriptions of her Aunt Ruby and Aunt Docia's dresses. Re-read the section about Laura's aunts getting dressed for the dance. Do people dress this way today? Do women still fix their hair as Laura's aunts did? Was there anything you liked or didn't like about the way people in Laura's day dressed?
6. Grandma spent most of the dance stirring a big pot of maple syrup. Everyone had a chance to eat maple syrup on fresh clean snow. Have you ever done this? Would you like to? After a long time, Grandma called out that the sugar was "graining." What did this mean?

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Multiple Choice (Chapters 9 and 10)

Chances are you probably don't remember the first time you ever saw a town. In Chapter 9, "Going to Town," Laura describes her first visit to a town. Chapter 10, "Summertime" tells us exactly how a pioneer family spent the summer making food to last all winter.

1. Why were Laura and Mary always glad when spring arrived?
 - a. They could go barefoot
 - b. They could go to school
 - c. They could go to swim
 - d. They could go to Grandma's

2. It might seem strange to you, but Laura and Mary had never seen a town until they saw this one. Do you remember the town's name?
 - a. Paris
 - b. Parkersville
 - c. Pepin
 - d. Potter

3. Laura had an accident by trying to collect too many pretty pebbles at the lake. What happened?
 - a. she fell
 - b. she tore her hat
 - c. her pocket tore
 - d. her shoes got lost

4. In the summertime, neighbors came to visit. One boy, named Clarence, wore a special kind of shoes that Laura admired. What did she like about his shoes?
 - a. they were blue
 - b. they had copper toes
 - c. they had taps on the bottom
 - d. they had bells

5. Laura felt bad because her hair was what color?
 - a. blonde
 - b. red
 - c. brown
 - d. black

6. Ma and Laura talked about the moon. What did Ma say some people thought it was made of?
 - a. yellow cheese
 - b. green cheese
 - c. white mushrooms
 - d. gray moss

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Reflection Questions (Chapters 9 and 10)

1. Laura wrote that she had never seen a town. Did you think that was strange? How do you think Laura would react if she could see all the shopping malls of today? Do you think she would be excited or scared?
2. Throughout Chapter 9, Laura constantly compares herself to Mary. Laura believes that Mary is prettier because she has golden hair. She also is envious because Mary is given a piece of candy with a longer poem on it. Do you think Laura should have felt this way? What finally happens because Laura is jealous of Mary? Do you think Laura should have been punished for hitting Mary? Why or why not?
3. When summertime came to the Big Woods, Laura and Mary often went to visit a neighbor, Mrs. Peterson. She gave them each a cookie. Laura and Mary would each eat half of their cookie and save a half for Baby Carrie. This gave Carrie one whole cookie. Laura felt this was not fair, but they did not know how to divide the cookies evenly. How do you think they should have divided the cookies? What would have been fair?
4. If you want to eat cheese, someone in your family probably just buys it at the store. When Laura's family wanted cheese, they had to plan the event. Making cheese takes a long time...were you surprised to learn that it takes so long to make? Can you remember some of the steps they had to take before they could make cheese?
5. Do you know the meaning of these words: *rennet*, *whey*?
6. Why were the Ingalls so excited when Pa found the bee tree? What did having all that honey mean to them?

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Multiple Choice (Chapters 11, 12, and 13)

A pioneer family had to have a good harvest to feed themselves and their animals through the winter. In Chapters 11, "Harvest," and Chapter 12, "The Wonderful Machine," we read about the Ingalls getting ready for winter. Chapter 13, "The Deer in the Woods," tells the story of Pa and a hunting trip.

1. Pa and Uncle Henry traded work when their grain got ripe in the fields. To keep their grain dry, they took seven bundles of grain to make a.....
 - a. shock
 - b. stem
 - c. stack
 - d. stump

2. Laura's cousin, Charley got into mischief when he went to help Pa and Uncle Henry in the woods. What happened to Charley?
 - a. he tripped and hurt his foot
 - b. he got stung by yellow jackets
 - c. he fell off a stump
 - d. he sprained his wrist

3. If Ma wanted to make hats, she had to soak the straw, and then do something else to keep it soft. What did she do to keep it soft?
 - a. cut it
 - b. braid it
 - c. wash it
 - d. twist it

4. Pa was excited about the wonderful threshing machine. The machine was called an eight horsepower machine. What ran the machine?
 - a. a motor
 - b. batteries
 - c. eight horses
 - d. engines

5. At the time this book was written, bread made of cornmeal was often called by this name:
 - a. hoe cake
 - b. johnny cake
 - c. southern cake
 - d. cornmeal cake

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Reflection Questions (Chapters 11, 12, and 13)

1. What did you think about Laura's cousin, Charley? Do you think he was helpful to Uncle Henry and Pa? Why or why not? Have you ever heard the story of the "Boy Who Cried Wolf?" Do you think the story of Charley and the yellow jackets sounds the same? Do you think Charley was sorry he tricked Pa and Uncle Henry? Do you think he learned a lesson? What was it?

2. A pioneer family had to work hard, yet they had the skills to make many things. Ma made straw hats for her family. She also made cheese. Can you think of other things that Laura's family made for themselves that we usually buy in a store nowadays? Are our lives easier or harder than Laura's family? If you could live in Laura's time or now, which would you choose? Why?

3. Were you surprised that the wonderful threshing machine was "run" by horses? Can you see where we get the expression "horsepower" to mean a powerful motor or engine? In Laura's time, machines really used horse power to move them. Even today, we say a car motor has "horsepower" even though we know there are no horses inside our car's engine! Can you think of any other expressions that have their roots in history?

4. Laura is glad at the end of the book that "Now is now. It can never be a long time ago." Can you think of a time in your life when you were glad that "now is now?" What happened? What made that time special?

5. What do you think about Laura's life? Did it sound as if she had a happy life in the Big Woods? Is it a place you would have wanted to live? Did Laura's writing make you feel as if you did live back then? What was your favorite part of the book? Explain.

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Chapters 1 and 2

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B

Chapters 3 and 4

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. D

Chapters 5 and 6

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B

Chapters 7 and 8

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. B

Chapters 9 and 10

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B

Chapters 11, 12, and 13

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B

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Reflection Questions: All Chapters

1. Laura's family lived over one hundred years ago. In what ways is Laura's life different from yours? In what ways is your life the same as Laura's? How is your home different than Laura's?
2. When we run out of food or something else we need, most of us are close to a store where we can buy more. Laura's family lived in a Big Woods where there was no store nearby. If they ran out of something, they learned to do without until they could make a trip to a town. They had to grow or catch almost everything they ate. They had to store food to last all winter so it wouldn't spoil. Do you remember some of the ways the Ingalls family stored their food? Do you know anyone who still stores food this way? How do you store your food?
3. Laura and her sister, Mary, each had chores to do each day. What about you? Do you have certain chores or jobs you must do each day? Are your chores different or the same as Laura's?
4. Did your parents have chores when they were children? Did they do the same chores as you or Laura? What about your grandparents?
5. Before you read this book, did you know the meaning of the following words? Do you know what they mean now? (Write the definition next to the word).
 - A. Venison
 - B. Thimble
 - C. Churning
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6. Laura liked to hear Pa tell the story about the time he was a naughty little boy. She called it "The Voice in the Woods." Do you remember what animal really frightened Pa in the woods? Do you think he was so frightened because he felt guilty for not obeying his Father's order to come straight home? Have you ever been frightened like Pa? Did you later realize that whatever frightened you was really some simple sound or maybe a shadow of an everyday object? What happened?
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8. When the cousins, Alice, Ella and Peter came to visit, Laura and Mary played with them in the snow. Do you have cousins or other family who like to play in the snow? What games do you play? Have you ever made snow pictures as Laura's family did? Do you think children had more fun in Laura's time or yours?
9. Aunt Eliza told a story about her dog, Prince. When Aunt Eliza tried to get water from the spring, Prince would not let her go. Why? Do you think Prince saved Aunt Eliza's life? Do you have a pet? Would your pet save your life? If you don't have a pet, have you ever heard a story about a pet that did save someone's life? Can you tell what happened?
10. Do you think Laura had a happy Christmas? Can you tell about the happiest Christmas you ever spent?
11. In the 1870s, there were certain rules of behavior for Sundays. Laura describes how her family spent their Sundays. How are Sundays different today than they were in Laura's time? List five ways that Sundays have changed since Laura was a little girl. Do you think the changes are good or bad? Explain.
12. Laura tells the story of "Grandpa's Sled and the Pig." Did you think this story was funny? Why? Should Grandpa and his brothers have been riding the sled? Do you think their father should have punished them for being disobedient? Why?
13. In the chapter entitled "Sundays," Laura celebrates a birthday. Can you remember some of the gifts she received from her family? Were they gifts you would enjoy receiving yourself? Why?
14. When Spring came to the Big Woods, Pa went to town to trade his fur pelts for supplies. Were you surprised that Pa had to walk all day to get to town and back home again? How far do you think the town was from the Ingalls' home? Did you think it was odd that Laura and Mary had never seen a town? A store? How do you think Laura would feel if she came to visit your time and saw all the stores you see in a day?
15. Laura titled Chapter 6 "Two Big Bears." Is this a good title for this chapter? Why? How do you think Ma felt when she realized that she had slapped a bear instead of her gentle milk cow? What would you do if this happened to you? Did Ma do the right thing?
16. Pa sees what he thinks is a bear in the woods. What did he really see? Do you think Pa let his imagination run away with him? Why? Is this story almost the same as the story Pa told about "The Voice in the Woods"? Explain how they are the same. What lesson should Pa learn from this "bear"?

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17. Snow late in the spring meant that the trees produce more maple syrup. When the sugar snow came, Pa was glad, because Grandpa would be able to make more maple syrup. Why do you think maple syrup was so important to the family?
18. Have you ever tasted maple syrup? Can you explain some of the steps in making maple syrup? What would you do first? Do you think you could make maple syrup if you had a maple tree in your yard? Why or why not?
19. Ma is so excited about the Dance at Grandpa's that she wears a special dress. Laura calls it a "delaine" dress. Do you know what a delaine dress is? Can you find the word in a dictionary? We also see two other words in this chapter that might not be familiar to us—*basque* and *whalebone*. Can you find definitions of these words?
20. At Grandma's, Laura also gives us good descriptions of her Aunt Ruby and Aunt Docia's dresses. Re-read the section about Laura's aunts getting dressed for the dance. Do people dress this way today? Do women still fix their hair as Laura's aunts did? Was there anything you liked or didn't like about the way people in Laura's day dressed?
21. Grandma spent most of the dance stirring a big pot of maple syrup. Everyone had a chance to eat maple syrup on fresh clean snow. Have you ever done this? Would you like to? After a long time, Grandma called out that the sugar was "graining." What did this mean?
22. Laura wrote that she had never seen a town. Did you think that was strange? How do you think Laura would react if she could see all the shopping malls of today? Do you think she would be excited or scared?
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25. If you want to eat cheese, someone in your family probably just buys it at the store. When Laura's family wanted cheese, they had to plan the event. Making cheese takes a long time...were you surprised to learn that it takes so long to make? Can you remember some of the steps they had to take before they could make cheese?
26. Do you know the meaning of these words: *rennet*, *whey*?
27. Why were the Ingalls so excited when Pa found the bee tree? What did having all that honey mean to them?
28. What did you think about Laura's cousin, Charley? Do you think he was helpful to Uncle Henry and Pa? Why or why not? Have you ever heard the story of the "Boy Who Cried Wolf?" Do you think the story of Charley and the yellow jackets sounds the same? Do you think Charley was sorry he tricked Pa and Uncle Henry? Do you think he learned a lesson? What was it?
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30. Were you surprised that the wonderful threshing machine was "run" by horses? Can you see where we get the expression "horsepower" to mean a powerful motor or engine? In Laura's time, machines really used horse power to move them. Even today, we say a car motor has "horsepower" even though we know there are no horses inside our car's engine! Can you think of any other expressions that have their roots in history?
31. Laura is glad at the end of the book that "Now is now. It can never be a long time ago." Can you think of a time in your life when you were glad that "now is now?" What happened? What made that time special?
32. What do you think about Laura's life? Did it sound as if she had a happy life in the Big Woods? Is it a place you would have wanted to live? Did Laura's writing make you feel as if you did live back then? What was your favorite part of the book? Explain.