

Bound for Oregon

Name: _____

Reading Questions

Chapters 1-3

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
2. Why did Mary Ellen's family move from Indiana to Arkansas?
3. What does Mary Ellen's father make for a living?
4. What kind of store did Grandma open after Grandpa died?
5. What two things did Mary Ellen say she had inherited from her mother?
6. How did Mary Ellen and Louvina amuse themselves while riding in the wagon during the rain?
7. Which Bible verse was Mary Ellen's favorite?
8. Why did Mary Ellen's family decide to go to Independence, Missouri?

Chapters 4-6

1. Why did Mary Ellen think the town of Independence, MO was exciting?
2. How was Mary Ellen's dress different from Louvina when they would return to the wagon after playing?

3. What made Mary Ellen think her father was brave when they were camped in Independence?
4. What kind of man was Towser's owner? What clues from the text help support your answer?
5. How did the wagon train make it past the Wakarusa River?
6. Which members of the wagon train turned around at the Kaw River?

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Chapters 7-9

1. What differences between Kansas and Nebraska does Mary Ellen mention at the beginning of Chapter 7?
2. Why are the men on the wagon train concerned that it is almost the first of June?
3. Why did Sarah Jane's family decide to move from their plantation and go west?
4. What necessities were the families beginning to run low on during the journey through Nebraska?
5. Why did Mary Ellen's mother make her ride sidesaddle?
6. Describe Sarah Jane. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. Why did Mary Ellen's mother agree to let Rover ride in the wagon?
8. How was Mary Ellen's father related to Abraham Lincoln?
9. Why did father and Mr. Grant decide to stay behind when Sarah Jane's family and the Tedroses left?
10. What place did Mary Ellen's family hope to reach by the Fourth of July?
11. What difficulties did the people in the wagon train face once they crossed the Platte River?
12. How did the pioneers on the wagon train use the buffalo chips they collected?

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Chapters 10-12

1. What illness is Louvina recovering from in Chapter 10?
2. Why do you think Father is so calm in most situations? Consider how he reassured Mary Ellen after the Indian attack, and when he nursed Louvina during her illness.
3. Why did Mr. Grant not return to camp from hunting?
4. What does Captain Powell's wagon train do at night to keep the animals and people safe?
5. What happened to their cow, Lillie?
6. Why did Father decide to leave Captain Powell's wagon train and join a smaller wagon train?
7. What did the families do to lighten the loads for the oxen while with Captain Clark's wagon train?
8. What did Mother give Mrs. Grant when they said good-bye to one another?

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Chapters 13-16

1. Why were the families excited to finally be surrounded by trees again as they traveled over the Blue Mountains?
2. How did the ox, Buck, create chaos in the camp?
3. What “surprise” did Father wake the girls up to see?
4. Why did John and Mary Ellen decide to keep traveling after Father became sick?
5. What choice did travelers have to make once they reached the Dalles?
6. How did the Todd family show gratitude during their first night in Oregon?
7. What was Mary Ellen most thankful for once they reached Oregon?
8. How did Father injure his hands?
9. What deal did Mary Ellen make with their new neighbor, Mr. McCorkle?
10. Why did Mary Ellen decide to turn the nine-patch squares Grandma had given her into a quilt for Elijah?

