

Little Town on the Prairie: Reading Comprehension Questions

After reading each section of the book, write your answers to the questions in complete sentences on notebook paper.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions:

1. When was Laura Ingalls Wilder born?

2. How old is Laura at the beginning of Little Town on the Prairie?

3. What is the setting (time and place) of the story?

4. What is the theme?

Chapter 1: Surprise

1. What surprising question did Pa ask Laura while the family was eating supper?
2. Why did Laura not want to work in town?

Chapter 2: Springtime on the Claim

1. What did Laura have to teach the new calf to do?
2. How had Laura’s sister, Mary, become blind?
3. What kind of tool did Pa use in the field?
4. Describe Mary (according to Laura).
5. What did Pa plant in the field?
6. How did Pa make their home bigger in the spring?

Chapter 3: The Necessary Cat

1. Why did Pa need to replant half of the cornfield?
2. How did Pa end up with a “haircut” one night?
3. Why did the family decide they needed a cat? Give two reasons.

Chapter 4: The Happy Days

1. Why was spring a “happy time” for Laura’s family?
2. What was special about the college in Iowa where the Ingalls family hoped to send Mary?

Chapter 5: Working in Town

1. What type of work did Laura do in town?
2. How much money did Laura earn each day?
3. How did Laura and Mrs. White work together to sew the shirts?

Chapter 6: The Month of Roses

1. What kind of job did Laura hope to get in two years?
2. How does Laura feel about giving her wages to Ma?
3. What did Laura hope the family could do with the money saved?
4. Why did families live on their homestead claims at least six months out of the year?

Name _____

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Chapter 7: Nine Dollars

1. How much money had Laura earned in the nine weeks she worked with Mrs. White?
2. Why did Mrs. White tell Laura she would no longer need her to work?
3. Who was in charge of feeding and caring for the new baby chicks?
4. How long will it take for Mary to finish college once the Ingalls family is able to send her?

Chapter 8: Fourth of July

1. What woke the family from their sleep?
2. Who accompanied Pa into town for the Fourth of July celebration?
3. What did Lawyer Barnes give the girls?
4. Who won the horse race?

Chapter 9: Blackbirds

1. What has been eating the oat crop?
2. Which crops did Pa plan to sell to pay taxes and buy coal?
3. What did Ma bake with some of the blackbirds Pa shot?
4. What does Pa plan to sell in order to send Mary to college in the fall?

Chapter 10: Mary Goes to College

1. What did Laura and Carrie do to surprise Ma while her parents were away?
2. Why did Laura think she couldn't manage a house like Ma?
3. What chores did Laura and Carrie have left to do on Monday before Ma and Pa came home?
4. What did Ma bring home for Laura and Carrie?

Chapter 11: Miss Wilder Teaches School

1. Who is the new school teacher?
2. How does Laura know Nellie Oleson?
3. Why won't the older boys attend school during the fall?

Chapter 12: Snug for Winter

1. What did Laura find as she was packing clothes out of the drawer?
2. Where did the Ingalls family move for the winter?
3. What did the family plan to burn to stay warm for the winter?

Chapter 13: School Days

1. What time of the day did Laura miss Mary the most? Why?
2. Who brought Miss Wilder to school in the morning and picked her up in the afternoon?
3. Describe Laura's relationship with Nellie Oleson.

Chapter 14: Sent Home from School

1. What punishment did Miss Wilder give Carrie for missing three words in spelling?
2. What advice does Pa give the girls after they are sent home from school early?

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Chapter 15: The School Board's Visit

1. Who told the students Miss Wilder's first name?
2. Why was Laura concerned about the slate the kids were passing around with the verse written about Miss Wilder?
3. Who did Miss Wilder tell the school board was the cause of all the trouble in the school?
4. What advice do you think Ma was giving Laura when she wrote the verse in her autograph album?

Chapter 16: Name Cards

1. What was the name of the new teacher?
2. Describe the new teacher.
3. What did Nellie say was all the rage in the east?
4. Why did Pa give Laura twenty-five cents?

Chapter 17: The Sociable

1. How did Pa describe Laura's bangs after she cut them?
2. Why didn't Laura and Mary enjoy the sociable?

Chapter 18: Literaries

1. Why did Laura think Christmas would not be a real Christmas? p. 211
2. What activity did the townspeople do at the first meeting of the literary society?
3. What was the winning word in the spelling match?

Chapter 19: The Whirl of Gaiety

1. What activity did the members do at the second meeting of the literary society?
2. What did the men transport in a wagon to the school?
3. How did Laura and Ida help at the New England Supper?
4. What presents did Laura and Carrie buy their Pa and Ma for Christmas?
5. What gift did Laura receive from her parents for Christmas?

Chapter 20: The Birthday Party

1. What did the guests eat with their slice of birthday cake at the party?
2. What kind of machine that sends messages did Ben show to his guests?

Chapter 21: The Madcap Days

1. What did the girls ride during recess?
2. Why did Laura's family move back to the shanty?

Chapter 22: Unexpected in April

1. What surprising weather happened in late April?
2. What job did Ma have before she married Laura's Pa?

Chapter 23: Schooltime Begins Again

1. What did Laura study while she took care of Grace?
2. How many chicks did Ma hatch?

3. What was Laura and Ida's part in the School Exhibition?

4. Who asked to see Laura home after the revival meeting?

Chapter 24: The School Exhibition

1. What activity did Laura and Almanzo make plans to do in the winter?

Chapter 25: Unexpected in December

1. Why did Mr. Boast and Mr. Brewster come to Laura's home?

2. How far away is the school where Laura will teach?

3. What did Laura finally earn after taking the examination?

4. What did Laura plan to do with the money she earned from teaching?
