

Pronounce & Spell

prairie

hailed

wandered

visitor

aunt

Vocabulary: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. built a **sod** house _____

2. He made sure the ... **hearth** fire was lit _____

3. Free as a **lark** _____

4. to give you **schooling** _____

5. I can **hardly** read or write _____

6. **stormed** out of the house _____

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. In what year did the Bidson family move? _____

2. From where did they move? _____

3. How old was Noah? _____
- _____
4. List four ways Noah helped the family on the prairie:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. Who was coming to visit? _____
- _____
- _____

Discussion

1. What was life like in 1880? Talk about how moving and setting up a house would be different then.
2. Look at a map. Locate Maine and Colorado. Discuss how the family might have traveled and how long the trip might have taken.
3. Talk about the reasons Noah's parents probably had for wanting a good education for Noah.
4. Reread the final sentence in the chapter. This is a sentence to remember. Noah believes the stars are unimportant and he believes reading is unimportant. Do you think he is correct about *either*, *both*, or *neither*? Explain.

Pronounce & Spell

railway

twenty-five

baggage

blessing

learning

Vocabulary: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. When the train **halted** _____

2. a **buggy** I was driving _____

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. How far away was the nearest railway station? _____

2. What happened to Aunt Dora? _____

3. Why was Mrs. Bidson's letter a blessing to Aunt Dora? _____

4. Describe Noah's attitude toward learning with Aunt Dora. _____

Discussion

1. Discuss train travel. Compare long-distance travel options then and now.

2. What do you think of Aunt Dora's decision not to tell her sister about her buggy accident?

Pronounce & Spell

repeat

fidgeted

alphabet

different

laughed

Vocabulary: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. it was so **dim** _____
2. Noah went to **fetch** water _____
3. **excused** himself to do chores _____
4. **stubborn** as a ... mule _____

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. How far did Noah have to travel to get water? _____

2. What excuse did Noah give for not ever wanting to read? _____

3. What did Noah do to get out of his lesson each day? _____

4. What comment changed Aunt Dora's opinion about her ability to teach Noah?

Discussion

1. Why do you think Noah was resistant to the education Aunt Dora was trying to give him?
2. Predict how you think Aunt Dora is going to change her approach with Noah.