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CHAPTER 1:

The New Land

PRE-READING

Day 1:

- New Words: *write, Mrs. Bid-son, No-ah*
- Syllabication for Pronounce & Spell Words: *prai-rie, wan-dered, vis-i-tor*
- Phonics Flashcards:
 - soft **c**-ice-41
 - ie**-chief-102
 - wr**-wreath-112
 - or**-color-172
 - pr**-prize-285
 - o**-monkey-286
- Common Word: *sure* (#255)

POST-READING

Day 1:

- Phonetic Word Study with *Classical Phonics*
 - write* (CP, p. 52 – **wr** = /r/)
 - visitor* (CP, p. 127 – **or**)

Pronounce & Spell

prairie hauled wandered visitor aunt

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

1. built a **sod** house _____
_____ grass-covered _____
2. He made sure the ... **hearth** fire was lit _____
_____ the floor of a fireplace _____
3. Free as a **lark** _____
_____ singing bird _____
4. to give you **schooling** _____
_____ education _____
5. I can **hardly** read or write _____
_____ barely; scarcely _____
6. **stormed** out of the house _____
_____ rushed madly (angrily) _____

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. In what year did the Bidson family move? _____
_____ The Bidsons moved in 1880. _____
2. From where did they move? _____
_____ They moved from Maine to Colorado. _____

3. How old was Noah? _____

Noah was nine when his family moved.

4. List four ways Noah helped the family on the prairie:

1. _____ hauled water

2. _____ fed the animals

3. _____ made sure the house was free of snakes

4. _____ made sure the hearth fire stayed lit

5. Who was coming to visit? _____

Noah's Aunt Dora 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.

DISCUSSION ANSWERS:

1. In 1880, there was no electricity, so that means there was no air conditioning, no heat other than fire, and no lighting other than kerosene lamps or candles. There were no automobiles or airplanes, so travel had to be by train or horse-drawn carriage. In order to move across the country, families had to pile all their belongings into wagons and trek across the country slowly. There were no builders, so once a family arrived in a new place, they had to build their own house with the help of neighbors. There were no groceries, so all food had to be homegrown. There were no schools either, so children were dependent on individual tutors or family for their education.
2. See #1.
3. Noah's parents could hardly read and write, and they recognized that this limited their lives. They wanted Noah to have an education so that he would have more opportunities than they had. Think about how limited you would be in job possibilities if you couldn't read, write, or do math. Farmers need to know how to read, write, and calculate in order to run their farms.
4. Answers will vary.