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Supplemental Composition Lessons

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Composition Lessons for *The Moffats*

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Reading Passage

Read *Farmer Boy*, pp. 11-12, “The sun was shining ... Mr. Corse did not say anything.”

Guided Questions

1. What happens when the boys go out to play during recess?
2. What do they do when they realize this?
3. How does Mr. Corse respond?

Outline

- I. The boys play outside during recess and lose track of time.
- II. They hurry to get inside, but are late.
- III. Mr. Corse does not say anything.

Student Summary

In three sentences, summarize the passage. Say the sentences out loud to yourself. Then write them below.

Almanzo and the boys have so much fun playing outside during recess that they lose track of
the time. They hurry to get back to class, but are late. Although they are afraid of what Mr. Corse will
do, he does not say anything.

Dictation

They went merrily past the schoolhouse and down the road. – *Farmer Boy*, p. 11

Reading Passage

Read *Farmer Boy*, pp. 43-45, "Mr. Corse lifted the lid ... and slammed and locked the door."

Guided Questions

1. What is Big Bill Ritchie planning to do to the teacher?
2. How does Mr. Corse surprise the class?
3. What finally happens to Big Bill Ritchie?

Outline

- I. Big Bill Ritchie wants to thrash the teacher.
- II. Mr. Corse whips Big Bill with an ox-whip.
- III. Bill is thrown out of the classroom.

Student Summary

In three sentences, summarize the passage. Say the sentences out loud to yourself. Then write them below.

Big Bill Ritchie and his friends intend to thrash the teacher. Mr. Corse calls Big Bill to the front of the room and surprises everyone by whipping him with a long blacksnake ox-whip. Big Bill cries and begs and is finally thrown out of the classroom.

Dictation

Almanzo was sure that Father was the smartest man in the world. – *Farmer Boy*, p. 47