

Little House on Rocky Ridge

Readers 2 Advanced

Week 13—Schedule					
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<i>Little House on Rocky Ridge</i>		"A Big Surprise" & "Grandpa's Fiddle" ➤ □	"The Indian Story" & "Dust Storm"	"Making Camp" & "The Writing Case"	"Covered Wagon Folks"

Setting: South Dakota to Missouri; 1894

Overview

When life becomes too tough because of a drought in South Dakota, Laura and Almanzo Wilder decide to move to Missouri to try a new farm. Set in 1894, this is the story of the Wilders' move via wagon to a farm with an apple orchard. Includes vivid descriptions of both the hard work and the joys of homesteading. A continuation of Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House" series; you may find yourself soon buying the rest of the books!

"A Big Surprise" & "Grandpa's Fiddle"

➤ De Smet, South Dakota ①; Missouri ② (map 1)

NOTE: It is 677 miles from De Smet, South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri.

Why was Rose's family moving to Missouri? (*the railroad was selling land there; they gave free rides to interested customers*)

How long would the trip from South Dakota to Missouri take? (*most of the summer*)

Why does Rose's family feel they must leave? (*the drought forced them to lose the farm and Papa is a farmer at heart; also, the cold weather bothered Papa's body*)

Diphtheria is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract disease that was once common but is now rare in developed nations.

What will Rose miss when her family moves? (*dinners with Grandma, times with her extended family, Grandpa's fiddle music*)

Papa tells Mama, "Music does put heart in a body." What does that mean? (*music encourages the soul and helps the body continue with its tasks*)

"The Indian Story" & "Dust Storm"

How did the family spend the first morning of travel? (*Rose slept due to her short night, they sang, and Mama told stories*)

"Making Camp" & "The Writing Case"

Is it hard to get water in Missouri? (*not especially; you are never far from a bubbling spring or a creek*)

What chores did Rose have while traveling? (*she was supposed to get water and firewood*)

What did Mama have hidden in the writing case? (*a hundred dollar bill from money Mama had carefully saved*)

"Covered Wagon Folks"

Did Rose and the boys act rightly when they went to visit the covered wagons? (*no, they disobeyed their parents and lied to get out of being punished*) ■

Week 14—Schedule

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Little House on Rocky Ridge	"At the River Crossing" & "The Big Muddy" ➤ □	"Mama's Journal" & "Going Swimming"	"The Russians"	"Kansas" ➤ □	"A Great City" & "Journey's End" ➤ □

"At the River Crossing" & "The Big Muddy"

➤ Nebraska ⑤; Missouri River ⑥ (map 1)

Hardtack is a type of bread baked without yeast, sort of like a cracker. It keeps well over time.

Congregationalists are often called separatists and are members of various Protestant Christian churches that practice congregationalist church governance, which stresses the independence and autonomy of the local congregation.

How did the family cross the wide Missouri River? (*in a ferry*)

What is another name for the Missouri River? (*the Big Muddy*) Why is it called that? (*the water collects dirt and mud all along the banks. It moves so fast that the dirt doesn't have a chance to settle to the bottom, so it makes the water look muddy*)

"Mama's Journal" & "Going Swimming"

Why did Mama keep a journal? (*to remember the big and small things because the world was changing quickly*)

Why did all the travelers take Sunday off from traveling? (*the horses needed a rest as did the people*)

"The Russians"

Describe the meeting of two cultures—when the families met the Russians. (*the families couldn't talk to the Russians because they didn't speak the same language. The Russians were very friendly and brought gifts. Their clothes were different, but they were very neat and clean. One of the Russian women gave Mama a fresh batch of biscuits, but Mama couldn't bring herself to eat them because they had been inside the woman's blouse against her bare skin*)

A **hoecake** is a small cornmeal cake, so-called because it was often baked on the blade of a hoe over a fire.

Clabbered milk is thickened or curdled milk.

"Kansas"

➤ Kansas ③; Topeka, Kansas ④ (map 1)

Osage oranges (also known as horse apples or monkey brains) are large fruit that grow on small trees; they are filled with a sticky white sap and are inedible. They are often used to deter spiders, cockroaches, and other insects.

"A Great City" & "Journey's End"

➤ Ozark Mountains ⑦; Mansfield, Missouri ⑧ (map 1)

What is the capital of Kansas? (*Topeka*)

What were some of the new-fangled wonders of Topeka? (*telephone lines, an electric street car, asphaltum, and asbestos*)

Asphaltum is a dark-colored substance, much like tar, that is used for waterproofing roofs, building foundations, and other surfaces.

Asbestos is a mineral that does not burn or conduct heat; it usually comes in fibers that can be made into a fabric like cloth or felt.

How does Missouri look to the families? (*wonderful, with beautiful colored sky, and many plants, animals, and plenty of water*)

What is good and bad about the trains running through town? (*good is they carry commerce and produce prosperity; bad because they are so noisy*) ■

Week 15—Schedule

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Little House on Rocky Ridge	“Friends Again” & “The Little Dog”	“A Little House” & “Lost!”	“A Wonderful Discovery”	“Going Home”	“Cleaning House” & “Moving In”

“Friends Again” & “The Little Dog”

Describe how Rose got herself a dog. (*Rose saw a dog down by the creek. It seemed to be thirsty and hungry so she gave it some water and went back to camp for some food. She and Mama took some food to the creek and fed the dog. Rose tried to coax it back to camp, but it just ran back into the woods. That night it showed up under the wagon. Papa said they could keep it*)

Fido is Latin for loyal and faithful.

“A Little House” & “Lost!”

How much did the farm cost? (*10 dollars an acre—a bargain*)

A **button hook** is a small hook used to draw small buttons through buttonholes.

A **basque** is a tight coat or bodice.

“A Wonderful Discovery”

Describe how Rose found the money. (*Rose noticed a corner of paper sticking out of a crack in Mama’s writing case. Mama had kept the writing case in a box of dishes, so Rose felt down between the dishes and found the hundred dollar bill. It had slipped out of the case while they were traveling*)

“Going Home”

The Wilders have to wait for their apple trees to bear fruit. How long does that take? (*five or six years*)

Describe Rose’s new home. (*it was made of logs. It had two rooms—a lean-to with a dirt floor and a hole in the roof for a stove pipe, and a larger room with a wooden floor. There were no windows. It had a big fireplace made of rocks, and a wood-shingled roof*)

“Cleaning House” & “Moving In”

“**The Panic**” was when no one seemed to have any money—so no one bought much of anything.

Pawpaw is the edible, green-skinned fruit of the North American pawpaw tree, which is part of the custard-apple family and has purple flowers.

According to Papa, what is real money? (*gold*)¹

What is a tarantula? (*a nonpoisonous hairy spider about the size of a hand*)

How did Mama and Papa prepare the house? (*they cleaned it thoroughly, planned where to put the furniture, and unpacked the wagon*) ■

¹ **Mom or Dad:** You may want to discuss our “money” system today: how dollars used to be backed by gold but are now simply pieces of paper that people agree to trade for goods and services.

Week 16—Schedule

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Little House on Rocky Ridge	“Sleepless Night” through “A New Friend”	“Waiting For Papa” & “The Henhouse”	“Mama’s Window” & “A Walk in the Woods”	“Rabbit Stew” & “Stubborn Land”	“Falling Behind” & “Cave”

“Sleepless Night”, “The Orchard”, & “A New Friend”

What unpleasant new experiences did the family encounter? (*rattlesnake, bug bites, and rats*)

Why did Mama name the farm as she did? (*the land has a ridge and many rocks; Rocky Ridge Farm seemed appropriate*)

Persimmons are orange berries from a persimmon tree that are edible when fully ripe but otherwise extremely tart.

“Waiting for Papa” & “The Henhouse”

Where did Mama get her fabric for the quilt? (*she used pieces left over from clothes*)

Why did Mama teach Rose at home? (*since Mama needed Rose’s help, Mama couldn’t send Rose to school; Mama taught Rose so Rose wouldn’t fall behind*)

How much did Papa make on the wood he and Cyrus cut? (*75 cents*)

Chiggers are the larva of certain mites. They stick to the skin and suck the blood, causing severe itching.

What did the family use for money? (*Papa and Cyrus cut wood, Mama and Rose collected eggs*)

“Mama’s Window” & “A Walk in the Woods”

Describe some of Rose’s chores. (*she helped water and feed the chickens, and gather the eggs. She gathered stove wood. She peeled potatoes, and sorted beans, and stirred the cornmeal. She set the table before meals and helped wash and dry the dishes after. Then she put them away. She swept the cabin and made her bed. She carried water. On Mondays, she helped Mama wash the clothes. On Tuesdays, she helped with the ironing. On Fridays, they cleaned the whole house. On Saturdays, Rose helped mix bread dough*)

“Rabbit Stew” & “Stubborn Land”

How did Papa encourage Rose to enjoy the rabbit stew made of the rabbit she caught? (*anything the family can harvest from their land enabled them to remain independent*)

Why did Papa need a fence around the orchard? (*to keep free range hogs from destroying his trees*)

What is hoarfrost? (*frozen fog*)

“Falling Behind” & “Cave”

Was the farm easy to care for? (*no, Papa had to borrow mules to plow the rocky, stubborn land, everyone got sore backs and hands from collecting rocks, everyone worked a full six days*) ■

Week 17—Schedule

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<i>Little House on Rocky Ridge</i>	"Barn Raising" & "A Real Farm"				

"Barn Raising" & "A Real Farm"

What is a nabob? (*a person with great wealth or stature*)

A **barn raising** is an activity wherein neighbors come together to help another neighbor build, or re-build, a barn.

Describe how the family managed to stay ahead. (*they had to build a fence to keep out the hogs, they needed logs for the barn and Mama helped cut those, Papa took a job in town to help make the mortgage payment, and friends came out to help with a barn raising*) ■