

4 READERS

READERS GUIDE



Reading (4-Day)

Reading with Longer Chapter Books

Week 1

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
More Stories from Grandma's Attic	"When Grandma Was Young" and chap. 1	chaps. 2–3	chap. 4	chaps. 5–6

Day 1 "When Grandma Was Young" and Chapter 1

Setting

Michigan; 1880.

Overview

Set on a farm in Michigan more than one hundred years ago (1880), the stories are remembrances of the author's grandmother.

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why did Pa bring the goat into the house?
 A: *its mom had twins and refused to care for the little goat; Pa hoped Ma could nurse the baby goat to health*
- Q: How did Mabel survive her night in the barn?
 A: *her big brother came and kept her company*

Day 2 Chapters 2–3

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why didn't Mabel win the contest? [chap. 2]
 A: *she was careless and misspelled a word on her sampler*
- Q: Why do the girls decide to dress a pig? [chap. 3]
 A: *the size of the animal was right and it was a living creature—more fun than a doll*

Day 3 Chapter 4

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What does the author learn about prayer?
 A: *God is concerned about the big and small things*

Day 4 Chapters 5–6

Cultural Literacy

The Village Blacksmith: a classic poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that is a tribute to American blacksmiths; based upon an actual blacksmith shop on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. [chap. 5]

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Was the family sorry they took in a stranger? [chap. 5]
 A: *no*
- Q: How did the family prepare for a snowstorm? [chap. 6]
 A: *they brought in extra food for the animals, extra wood for the stove, extra food from the cellar, and tied a rope from the house to the barn*
- Q: How did the Lord answer their prayers? [chap. 6]
 A: *the doctor was lost and saw their light, he came and cared for Ma ■*

Week 2

Date:	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
More Stories from Grandma's Attic	chaps. 7–8	chap. 9	chaps. 10–11	chaps. 12–13

Day
5

Chapters 7–8

Cultural Literacy

truant officer: an employee of a school system who investigates the absences of students. [chap. 7]

“A pig in a poke”: to buy “a pig in a poke” means to make a blind bargain or to make a deal without sufficient scrutiny or knowledge. This phrase came from a formerly common trick of trying to pass off a cat as a suckling pig on an unsuspecting buyer by concealing it in a bag or “poke.” The companion phrase “to let the cat out of the bag” refers to the point at which the trick was revealed. [chap. 8]

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why did Roy’s parents make him give Mabel the slate? [chap. 7]
 A: *he told her he would and they made him keep his word*
- Q: Did the boy’s trunk contain treasure? [chap. 8]
 A: *no, only rusty nails*
- Q: Have you ever bought “a pig in a poke?” Did you learn your lesson as well as Reuben & Roy? [chap. 8]

Day
6

Chapter 9

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why are chores important?
 A: *they make you a part of the family, and work is a good thing*

Day
7

Chapters 10–11

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Describe how the farm was different when Grandma was a child. [chap. 10]
 A: *no phone, no electricity, no running water*
- Q: Why would a rag doll be stuffed with food, like popcorn or rice? [chap. 11]
 A: *it was the materials they had available and allowed for relatively free movement—like a bean bag*

Day
8

Chapters 12–13

Cultural Literacy

biography: a book about a person’s life along with the interesting things they do. [chap. 13]

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Mabel hadn’t told a lie about the pencil, but what did she do wrongly? [chap. 12]
 A: *she had kept back the truth*
- Q: Where do many good stories come from? [chap. 13]
 A: *writing about things in our lives* ■

Week 3

Date:	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
More Stories from Grandma's Attic	chap. 14	chap. 15–end		
The Whipping Boy			chaps. 1-5	chaps. 6-9

More Stories from Grandma's Attic

Day 9 Chapter 14

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why doesn't it work to try to cover up sin?
 A: *sin usually comes to light and even if it doesn't, God knows*

Day 10 Chapter 15–end

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why does Ma recommend confessing sin early? [chap. 15]
 A: *your conscience bothers you*
- Q: What does the Bible mean by “your brother”? [chap. 16]
 A: *any other person*
- Q: What sometimes happens when you pray for your enemies? [chap. 16]
 A: *they become friends*

The Whipping Boy

Day 11 Chapters 1–5

Setting

ca. AD 1000–1400.

Overview

While living as a whipping boy for “Prince Brat,” Jemmy dreams of returning to the sewers as a rat catcher. When Prince Brat is bored and decides to run away, he takes Jemmy with him.

Caught by highwaymen just after setting off for their adventure, the boys must use their wits and work together to escape.

Vocabulary

ferret: a type of weasel that resembles a yellow mink, with dark tail, feet, and mask. [chap. 2]

highwayman: a person who robs along a public road. [chap. 5]

Cultural Literacy

“Prince on the hoof”: means a prince that rides a horse—sometimes livestock being sold for meat is referred to as “on the hoof,” meaning it hasn’t yet been slaughtered, the animal is still living. [chap. 5]

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What was Jemmy’s role at the palace? [chap. 1]
 A: *to take whatever punishment was due to the prince*
- Q: How did Jemmy become educated? [chap. 2]
 A: *he had to be on hand for the prince’s lessons, and he learned inadvertently*
- Q: Why does the prince decide to run away? [chap. 3]
 A: *he’s bored*

Day 12 Chapters 6–9

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why does Billy decide to ask for 55 pounds of gold for Prince Brat’s ransom? [chap. 6]
 A: *that is what he figures the prince weighs—and he is asking for his weight in gold*
- Q: Why does Jemmy pretend to be the prince? [chap. 8]
 A: *to rescue the true prince*
- Q: What does Jemmy say is a prince’s ransom? [chap. 8]
 A: *a wagon full of gold and jewels*
- Q: Explain Jemmy’s plan to get the prince back to the palace safely. [chap. 9]
 A: *he pretends to be the prince and demands that his “whipping boy” [the prince] deliver the message and the crown; that way the king will know that the thieves have the “right” prince ■*