

LITTLE HOUSE
IN
THE BIG WOODS

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READING RIGHT
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LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS

Synopsis

The setting of this story is a log cabin in Wisconsin during the 1870's. Laura describes the dangers and joys of every day life. There are not yet many neighbors in the Big Woods and the family had to provide for its own friendships, entertainment and even their food. Laura's father plays his fiddle in the evenings and tells stories to amuse the family.

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LESSON 1

Chapters 1 - 2

1. Are there a lot of families living around Laura and her family?
 - A. The Big Woods are full of families.
 - B. They are the only family in the Big Woods.
 - C. There are a few other families in the Big Woods.

2. What kind of work does Laura's father do for a living?

3. Where do the people in the story get their food?
 - A. Trade with other people
 - B. At the grocery store
 - C. Grow or raise it themselves

4. What does Laura's father like to do in the evening?

5. What are cracklings?

6. A flashback is when the author goes back in the story to tell the reader about something which happened at an earlier time. The author uses this technique in these chapters. Which of the following is an example of a flashback?
 - A. Telling events they did on each day
 - B. The story about grandpa and the panther
 - C. The butchering of the pig when Uncle Henry came

7. Do you think you would enjoy living like the people in this story? Explain your answer.

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LESSON 2

Chapters 3 - 5

1. What chore does Laura's father complete every night with help from the girls?
2. Who comes to visit the family at Christmas?
3. How do the cousins make pictures in the snow?
4. What does the word "thrashing" mean?
5. What special present did Laura receive from Santa Claus?
 - A. Rag doll
 - B. Sled
 - C. Bicycle
6. Why are Sundays so hard for Laura?
7. Today it would be considered unsafe to always have a gun cocked and ready to shoot. Why did Laura's father keep his gun ready to fire?

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LESSON 3

Chapters 6 - 7

1. Why does Laura's father go to town in his rig?
 - A. To play his fiddle at a dance
 - B. To visit his friends that he hasn't seen all winter
 - C. To trade the furs he trapped during the winter

2. What happened when Laura and her mother went to milk the cows?

3. What is the meaning of *sugar snow*?
 - A. A spring snow, which makes a longer season in which to obtain maple syrup.
 - B. A snow that is granular and looks like sugar.
 - C. A type of cotton candy that they used to have.

4. What is special about the kind of sap that they are talking about in the story?

5. Put the following events in the correct order.
 - _____ Pa runs at, and hits a bear that turns out to be a tree stump.
 - _____ Pa tells the girls there is going to be a dance.
 - _____ Ma slaps a bear
 - _____ Pa goes to his father's house to get maple sugar.

6. Why does Pa always tell the girls stories?

7. Explain how would you feel if you discovered you had just slapped a bear?

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LESSON 4

Chapters 8 -9

1. How did Laura's father and grandfather carry the maple syrup in from the woods?
2. What type of dance were Grandma and Uncle George doing in the contest?
 - A. Waltz
 - B. Jig
 - C. Jitterbug
3. In Chapter Nine the family goes to town. How often before had the girls been able to go to town?
 - A. Once a month
 - B. This was their first time
 - C. Four times
4. Which of the following events happened last?
 Laura tears her pocket filled with pebbles
 The two Lauras argue over which baby is prettier
 Laura and Mary play house in the front yard
5. What is Laura thinking about her ma at the dance?
6. Laura gives the reader some clues as to why she thinks Mary is better than her. List two of them.

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LESSON 5

Chapters 11 - 13

1. Clarence Huleatt had something that Laura would have liked to have. What was it?
 - A. A pet dog
 - B. Copper-toe shoes
 - C. A red kite
2. What did Laura's father find on his way to Uncle Henry's house?
 - A. A hive full of honey
 - B. Some deer
 - C. A nest of yellow jackets
3. Laura's mother makes something from the straw. What is it?
4. During what time of the year do they make cheese?
 - A. Winter
 - B. Summer
 - C. Spring
 - D. Fall
5. Why was it important for Laura's father and Uncle Henry to trade work with each other?
6. Do you think Charlie deserved to get stung by the yellow jackets? Explain your answer.
7. Compare one of the characters in this story to a character in a different story you have read. Tell how you think they are similar.

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. C
2. Laura's father is a farmer and a hunter.
3. C
4. In the evening Laura's father likes to play his fiddle, sing songs, or tell stories.
5. Cracklings are the crisp brown skin of a roasted pig.
6. B
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Every night the girls help their father make bullets.
2. At Christmas, Aunt Eliza, Uncle Peter, and their cousins, Peter, Alice, and Ella come to visit.
3. The cousins make pictures in the snow by climbing up on a tree stump, holding their arms out wide, and falling flat on their faces. Then they try to stand up and move away without messing up their prints.
4. A thrashing is a whipping.
5. A
6. Sundays are hard for Laura because she can't run or be noisy and she isn't allowed to play.
7. Laura's father kept the gun cocked and ready to use because it took a long time to get the gun ready and danger came quickly.

LESSON 3

1. C
2. When Laura and her mother went to milk the cows there was a bear in the pen that Laura's mother mistakenly slapped thinking it was a pig.
3. A

4. What is special about the sap is that it can become maple syrup.
5. The correct order is 2, 4, 1, and 3.
6. Answers will vary. They might include to teach them lessons, to entertain them, because he knew lots of stories and like to tell them, or because there wasn't anything else to do.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Laura's father and grandfather carried the maple syrup in from the woods in buckets that hung from a wooden yoke that grandfather had made.
2. B
3. B
4. The event, which happened last, was Laura tearing her pocket that was full of pebbles.
5. At the dance Laura feels proud of her mother, and thinks she looks so rich and fine that she is afraid to touch her.
6. Some of the clues that Laura gives to show that she thinks Mary is better than her are: the storekeeper said Mary was pretty but he didn't mention Laura; Mary's candy had a poem on it, Laura's only had one line; on the way home from Pepin, Laura thought May looked neat and clean and was minding her manners while she did not.

LESSON 5

1. B
2. A
3. Laura's mother makes hats from the straw.
4. B
5. It was important for Laura's father and Uncle Henry to trade work with each other because they didn't have a lot of machinery and no man could do all the work by himself and they couldn't afford to hire help.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.