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EDU 365

October 29, 2015

**Oral Presentation**

I will be presenting this lesson as I would to a fourth grade class and I would start at the beginning of The Long Winter if I taught a lesson on this book to a fourth grade class. We will be learning about pioneers through one of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s books The Long Winter. We will now watch a short video about Laura’s life. **(Play video in PP, mention 1980 typo at 1:37)**. The Long Winter is about how Laura, her family, and the townspeople of De Smet endured the harsh winter of 1880-1881. The passage that I am about to read is about when Laura and Carrie were trapped in the school when a sudden blizzard struck. The teacher did not know what to do and Laura was very worried. One of the townspeople came to bring the teacher and the children back to De Smet. **(Read passage in book on pages 86-90)**. What do you think is going to happen next? Do you think that the all of the children and the two adults will make it back to town safely?

Most of us can relate to the harsh, cold, windy, and snowy winters with occasional blizzards. Sometimes we may feel as though these winters will never end. Laura felt this way too about the long winter and expressed her feelings and probably our feelings through this poem she wrote: “We remember not the summer – For it was long ago – We remember not the summer – In this whirling blinding snow – I will leave this frozen region – I will travel further south – If you say one word against it – I will hit you in the mouth.” Imagine what it would be like to have blizzards nearly every day with huge snow amounts and drifts as high as forty feet and with maybe just a day or two between blizzards. School is closed indefinitely until there is more coal for heat. The railroad has given up trying to get through to De Smet until spring, which is still a few months away, and is the town’s only source for food and supplies. Food and fuel are running out fast and Laura’s family must twist haysticks for heat and stretch their dwindling food supply to try to make it last until spring. Does the town make it through until spring or do most or all of the townspeople starve to death? Well, you will just have to wait until next time when I read the rest of The Long Winter to find out!

This book also relates to our previous science lesson about weather.

Did you know the facts about the winter that Laura wrote about actually happened and were very accurate? Even though settlers in De Smet did not keep records for that winter, they did keep measurements of temperature and melted inches of precipitation, such as snow. A meteorologist, a person who predicts the weather, figured out the accuracy of Laura’s facts by using those measurements and weather records kept in cities. The October 15, 1880 blizzard, which was the first blizzard mentioned in The Long Winter, really happened. In The Long Winter, the trains stopped coming to De Smet after Christmas and the railroad stated that they would not run any trains until spring. The Chicago & Northwestern railroad stopped running trains to De Smet after Christmas in 1880 and there were not any trains run until spring. To finish this presentation, I would like to show and explain the pictures that I have on the board. **(Show and explain the pictures on the PP, also state lessons that would use with fourth grade class. Students may write a journal entry about what they think is a long and cold winter).**

**Oral Presentation Sources**

Anderson, W. (1990). *Laura Ingalls Wilder country*. New York: HarperPerennial. ISBN: 978-0-06-097346-9.

Anderson, W. (1992). *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A biography*. New York: Collins. ISBN: 978-0-06-088552-6.

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Ingalls Wilder, L. (1940). *The Long Winter*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers. ISBN: 978-0-06-026461-1.

Vergano, D. (2011, August 21). ‘Little House’ author right on 1880’s winter. *USA Today*. Retrieved from http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/science/columnist/vergano/story/2011/08/Little-House-author-right-on-1880s-winter/50065682/1

**Other Books about and by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

**The Little House Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Little House in the Big Woods ISBN: 978-0-06-026430-7

Little House on the Prairie ISBN: 978-0-06-026446-8

Farmer Boy ISBN: 978-0-06-026425-3

On the Banks of Plum Creek ISBN: 978-0-06-026470-3

By the Shores of Silver Lake ISBN: 978-0-06-026416-1

The Long Winter ISBN: 978-0-06-026461-1

Little Town on the Prairie ISBN: 978-0-06-026451-2

These Happy Golden Years ISBN: 978-0-06-026480-2

The First Four Years ISBN: 978-0-06-026427-7

**Other Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

On the Way Home ISBN: 978-0-06-440080-0

West from Home ISBN: 978-0-06-440081-7

A Little House Traveler ISBN: 978-0-06-072492-4

**Teaching Resources to use with Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little House Books**

* Classroom Activity Guide for the Novels of Laura Ingalls Wilder by HarperCollins (http://files.harpercollins.com/PDF/TeachingGuides/0064400026.pdf)
* Little House Teacher’s Guides (This link is for chapters nine and ten for The Long Winter, but there are resources for the rest of that book and the other Little House books as well.) (http://littlehouseteachersguides.blogspot.com/2008/11/long-winter-9cap-garland-and-10three.html)
* Laura Ingalls Wilder Biographical Information (http://shs.umsystem.edu/historicmissourians/name/w/wilder/)