



Readers' Theater



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Laura Ingalls Wilder



GRL: K
DRA: 20

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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

List of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Group 1: Green

Group 2: Blue

Group 3: Orange

Laura: Light Blue



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Group 3: Later in life, Laura began writing down all her memories.

Laura: I didn't want to forget the stories Pa had told. I wanted people to remember what life was like on the frontier.

Group 1: Laura's daughter, Rose, thought that the stories would make a great book. Laura's first book, *Little House in the Big Woods*, was published in 1932. Laura was 65 years old. She went on to write many more books.

Group 2: Laura Ingalls Wilder died on February 10, 1957. Today, people still enjoy reading about Laura's childhood and her pioneer family.



Laura Ingalls Wilder

Group 1: On February 7, 1867, a girl named Laura was born in a log cabin. Her parents were Charles and Caroline Ingalls. Laura had a two-year-old sister named Mary.

Group 2: The Ingalls family lived in an area called the Big Woods in Wisconsin. Few people lived in these woods, which stretched for miles and miles.



Group 3: Pa and Ma Ingalls were pioneers. They explored and settled new parts of the country. They didn't want to compete with other people for game and water. They didn't want tree stumps crowding their fields.

Group 1: So when people started moving to the Big Woods, Pa Ingalls got "itchy feet."

Group 2: That's what Ma Ingalls called it when Pa Ingalls decided it was time to move. Pa Ingalls got "itchy feet" many times.



Group 3: Laura and Almanzo were married on August 25, 1885. Their daughter, Rose, was born on December 5, 1886.

Group 1: Laura and Almanzo also had "itchy feet." They moved from South Dakota to Missouri and from Missouri to Minnesota. They moved from Minnesota to Florida, then back to Missouri. They also traveled by covered wagon.

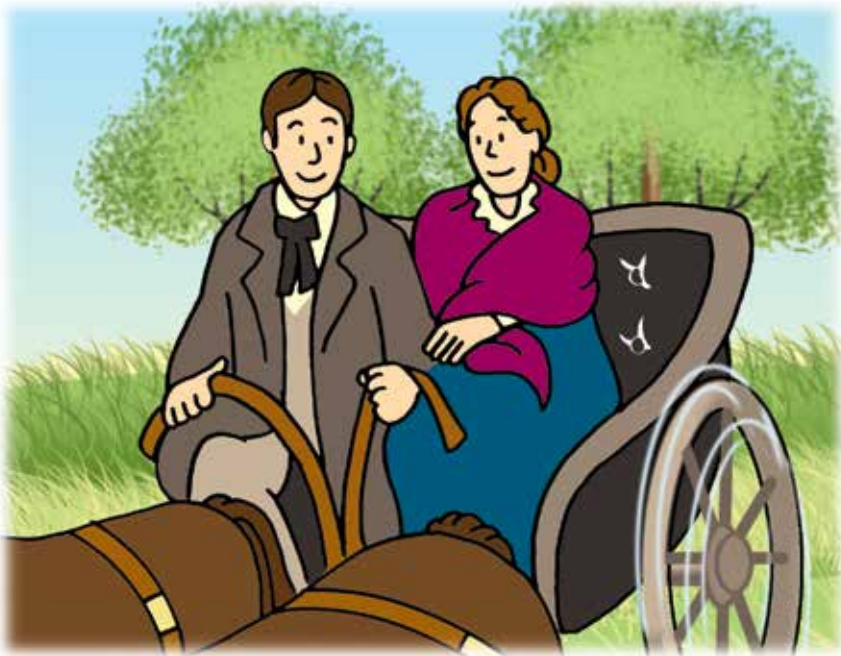
Group 2: Each time they moved, Almanzo built a house with his own hands. Each time, Laura turned the house into a home.



Group 3: Laura was very lonely. It was difficult for her to live so far away from her family.

Group 1: Every Friday, a family friend named Almanzo Wilder drove Laura home in a buggy pulled by two workhorses. Every Sunday afternoon, he drove her back.

Group 2: It was during those buggy rides that Laura and Almanzo fell in love.



Group 3: The Ingalls family moved often during the next 10 years. They left the woods for the plains. They left the plains for the woods. They left the woods again for the prairies.

Group 1: They moved from Wisconsin to Kansas, and from Kansas back to Wisconsin. They moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota, from Minnesota to Iowa, back to Minnesota, and then to South Dakota.



Group 2: Each time they moved, the Ingalls family packed up their home into a covered wagon.

Laura: We put everything in the wagon, except the beds, tables, and chairs. We didn't take these because Pa could make new ones.

Group 3: Each time, they traveled along bumpy dirt roads. They crossed lakes, rivers, and streams.



Group 3: A few years later, Mary enrolled in a school for the blind.

Group 1: At age 15, Laura received her teaching certificate. She moved away and began teaching school in a one-room schoolhouse that was miles away from home.

Group 2: She had five students. Some of them were older and taller than Laura.



Group 3: Then in the winter of 1879, Mary got very sick with fever. She gradually became blind.

Group 1: Laura became Mary's "eyes." She described everything she saw to her sister: the flowers, the trees, the birds, and the sky.

Group 2: Pa got "itchy feet" again. The family moved to what is now South Dakota. Then Ma Ingalls told him that she was tired of moving.



Group 1: Each time, Pa Ingalls built a house with his own hands. Each time, Ma Ingalls turned the house into a home.

Group 2: Sometimes, the house was a log cabin. Sometimes, the house was a dugout made of grass and dirt. Sometimes, the house was in the wilderness. Sometimes, the house was in town.

Group 3: During these 10 years, the family grew. Carrie was born in 1870. Freddie was born in 1875, but he died when he was nine months old. Grace was born in 1877.



Group 1: There were chores to do every day, rain or shine.

Group 2: Pa Ingalls hunted, trapped, and farmed. Sometimes, there was no rain. Sometimes, there was too much rain. Once, grasshoppers ate all the crops.

Group 3: Ma Ingalls washed, ironed, mended, cleaned, and baked. She had a chore for each day of the week.

Laura: Every morning, Mary and I made the beds and wiped the dishes. Sometimes, we helped Ma churn cream into butter.

Group 1: The children went to school whenever they could. Sometimes, they walked miles to get there. Sometimes, there was only one teacher for all eight grades.

Group 2: But every evening, Pa Ingalls would play his fiddle, sing, and tell stories. Ma Ingalls and the children would sing and dance and laugh.

