



Name _____

Date _____

LAURA INGALLS WILDER

The *Little House* books tell the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family. Laura traveled with her parents and her sister, Mary, in a covered wagon across many states, including across the Indian Territory. They traveled around a lot. They set up a home each time they moved. Each place had different problems to face, but they worked together as a family.

Laura was born many years ago, in 1867. That was before there was electricity, cars, or television. Her family fought off grasshoppers, storms, dust, food shortages, and more. Laura's older sister, Mary, suffered a stroke and lost her eyesight. Laura's baby brother, Freddy, got sick and died. Another sister, Grace, was soon born into the family. It was a time of sacrifice for everyone. But the family stuck together. They learned to enjoy life, have fun, and make the best of it.

Laura went on to school and studied hard. She became the top student of the class and became a teacher. Laura went on to marry Almanzo Wilder. It was their daughter, Rose, who encouraged Laura to write her stories. These stories were published in a book that was instantly loved worldwide.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What type of stories are the *Little House* books?
 - a. historical fiction
 - b. mystery
 - c. science fiction
 - d. fantasy
2. What conclusions can be drawn about the Ingalls family?
 - a. They were religious and dedicated to missionary work.
 - b. They were wealthy and lived a life of luxury.
 - c. They were hard working and persevering.
 - d. They were lazy and undetermined.
3. Which statement best explains why Laura's books were so well received?
 - a. They were filled with adventure and real-life experiences.
 - b. People had the same experiences that Laura had.
 - c. These books were written in first person.
 - d. The content in the books is factual information.
4. What is the meaning of the phrase "stuck together" in the passage?
 - a. They were connected and couldn't get apart.
 - b. They were willing to sacrifice and get sick together.
 - c. They didn't like their neighbors much, so they spent time together as a family.
 - d. They didn't give up or turn away when times were tough.



Name _____

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CLAUDE MONET

Claude Monet was a famous painter. You have probably seen some of his paintings. Monet was born in 1840 in Paris, France. His mother died in 1857. Life was not easy for him, but he had talent. His talent helped him throughout his life. His art began in drawing little cartoon pictures. A man by the name of Boudin noticed Monet's talent and gave him his first painting lesson. He was the one who encouraged Monet to paint outdoors. His family was not very happy about his job as a painter.

Monet had to go to Northern Africa, but when he got back, he went to Paris to get some more painting lessons. Monet's paintings are famous for their impression of light. Most of his paintings were painted outdoors. In this time, most painting was done inside in a studio. Painting outdoors was a new idea with painting. The type of painting that he was doing is called Impressionism. More and more people began to like this style of painting.

Monet had bad eyesight and other health problems. This made it difficult to paint. But he painted until the day he died. One of his most famous paintings is of water lilies. Monet died of lung cancer at the age of 83.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did drawing outdoors change the way painting was done?
 - a. The paint dried out more easily, and so it was expensive.
 - b. Painting outdoors allowed painters to use natural light in their artwork.
 - c. Painting was done using darker colors.
2. Why were paintings done outdoors unusual?
 - a. They captured the light.
 - b. They portrayed the countryside.
 - c. Most paintings during this time were done indoors.
 - d. You were paid more for paintings done outside.
3. After reading the passage, what can you infer about why Monet's parents were disappointed with his decision to paint?
 - a. They wanted him to keep drawing cartoon pictures.
 - b. They didn't think it was the right job for him.
 - c. They didn't think it would be good for his health.
 - d. They didn't think highly of his teacher Boudin.
4. Which statement does not explain what made Monet such a good artist?
 - a. Monet loved to paint outdoors and use light in his paintings.
 - b. Monet was trained by Boudin and encouraged to paint outdoors.
 - c. Monet had little support from his parents.
 - d. Monet painted to the last day of his life.



Name _____

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DR. SEUSS

On March 2, 1904, Theodore Seuss Gisel was born. Does that name sound familiar? Later in life he was known as Dr. Seuss, even though he was not a doctor. Many people felt that his books were like medicine. Dr. Seuss was a famous children's book author who wrote many books. These beloved books have been read by millions of children. You've probably read many of his books, as well.

Do you remember reading a story about green eggs and ham? How about a book about Horton who hatched an egg? These books capture the rhyming sounds of words and letters. Often, Dr. Seuss would make up words to go in his books. His books are also filled with creative and interesting creatures. Many of these creatures have been made up, but they seem real!

In the 1950s, there was a concern that children were not reading books because they found books boring. A publisher sent Dr. Seuss a list of important words for young readers. He wanted him to write a book that was fun and entertaining using these words. That was how *The Cat in the Hat* was born. Dr. Seuss went on to write many books that were both fun to read and entertaining. He was a creative author who made an impact on millions of readers.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Another title for this reading passage would be . . .
 - a. "Green Eggs and Ham."
 - b. "Literacy for the Young."
 - c. "Dr. Seuss: The Amazing Author."
 - d. "Dr. Seuss and His Patients."
2. Some similarities that are found in all of Dr. Seuss's books include . . .
 - a. rhyming and rhythm.
 - b. words using all letters of the alphabet.
 - c. free verse poetry.
 - d. nonfiction facts and details about animals.
3. In the last paragraph, what does the word *impact* mean?
 - a. targeted
 - b. hit
 - c. insight
 - d. influence
4. Based on the information in the passage, how did Dr. Seuss get his name?
 - a. Many felt his books were like medicine.
 - b. He was creative and young.
 - c. He went to medical school for a few years.
 - d. He had a Ph.D. and was called Dr. Seuss.



Name _____

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JOHN GLENN

John Glenn was born in 1921 and grew up in Cambridge, Ohio. He married his childhood sweetheart, Anna Castor. They had two children, David and Carolyn. He went to college in Ohio and then entered the Marine Corps. He flew planes in World War II. He also flew for the Air Force after the war and received several medals for his service.

In 1959, John Glenn joined NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). NASA is where astronauts are trained to go up into space. He was one of the first Mercury astronauts. He piloted the first manned spacecraft that orbited Earth. After completing three trips around Earth, he became a national hero.

John also ran for senate in his home state of Ohio and won. He had tried to win a seat in office a few times before. He finally became a senator in 1974. He also won re-election in 1980 and again in 1986.

But John's time in space was not done yet. After many years away, in 1998 he went on a second space mission. He was 77 years old. He wanted to help do experiments. These experiments could help scientists learn what happens to older people in space.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think John was able to go into space again at age 77?
 - a. He was going to die anyway.
 - b. He had already had experience being in space.
 - c. He was in good health.
 - d. He had won the race as senator.
2. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. It introduces the main idea of the passage.
 - b. It discusses John Glenn's experience as an astronaut.
 - c. It discusses John Glenn's experience as a politician.
 - d. It explains the experiments done in space.
3. A good way to answer question #2 above is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. reread the first paragraph.
 - c. look for the words *astronaut* and *John Glenn*.
 - d. reread the third paragraph and determine the main idea.



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Warm-Up 9

ABIGAIL ADAMS

Have you ever heard of President Adams? You've probably heard of him twice. There were actually two presidents with the same last name. That's because they were father and son. The wife and mother of these two presidents was Abigail Adams. This was the first time anything like this happened. Abigail is one of the most admired first ladies.

Abigail was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She never went to school, but she was very smart. She raised four children. She also ran the farm, and was widely known for her fight for American independence. She was asked her opinion many times on events taking place during Colonial times.

Abigail's husband, John Adams, was elected president of the United States in 1796. He was the second president. He and his wife were the first to live in the White House. John was not reelected, and so he and his wife returned to the farm. Abigail lived a great life, but she would not live long enough to see her son, John Quincy Adams, elected the sixth president of the United States.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about Abigail Adams?
 - a. She was a typical first lady.
 - b. She was an intelligent and admired first lady.
 - c. She died before she saw her son become president.
 - d. She ran a farm and fought for American independence.

2. Which statement supports the author's opinion of Abigail Adams?
 - a. She was asked her opinion on events taking place during Colonial times.
 - b. Abigail Adams was the wife and mother of a president.
 - c. She never went to school, but she was very smart.
 - d. Abigail was the first wife of the president to live in the White House.

3. The third paragraph informs the reader about . . .
 - a. Abigail's life on the farm.
 - b. Abigail's life in Massachusetts.
 - c. Abigail's work for American independence.
 - d. Abigail's life as wife and later mother of the president of the United States.

4. Where might this information about Abigail most likely be found?
 - a. in a book about the Revolutionary War
 - b. in a pamphlet about the president of the United States
 - c. on a website about the presidents of the United States and their wives
 - d. on a website about bad women of the United States