

# Lesson 1: School Days

...a little boy trudged to school



## WORD STUDY

### Pronounce and Spell

bough  
jeering

thrashing  
moccasins

trudged  
fidgeting

recess  
tardiness

### Define these vocabulary words as used in the story:

1. The cold **nipped** Almanzo's eyelids. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Five boys were **scuffling** in the deep snow by the path. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mr. Corse **rapped** on his desk with his ruler. \_\_\_\_\_
4. ... then they trotted, then they ran, **panting**. \_\_\_\_\_
5. They **boasted** that no teacher could finish the winter term. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The **waist's** collar buttoned snugly up to his chin. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION

1. What is the setting (time and place) of Farmer Boy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Give the names and ages of the four Wilder children. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was the teacher and why was he staying with the Wilder family at their home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Royal's punishment for not knowing his lesson? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Almanzo's punishment for not knowing his lesson? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why couldn't Mr. Corse punish the Hardscrabble boys? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Almanzo have to be the one to carry the dinner pail to school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Explain the seating arrangement in the classroom. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FOCUS PASSAGE

**Directions:** Carefully copy the first paragraph on page 1. Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization should be perfect.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Find the title page of the book, then turn the page to see publishing information. In what year did Laura Ingalls Wilder write *Farmer Boy*? Based on this knowledge and information in the paragraph you copied above, figure out the year in which the story is set.
2. Why did Mr. Corse give the Hardscrabble boys another chance after they were tardy?
3. What do you think was the purpose of the seating arrangement in the school?

## LANGUAGE LESSON

### SIMILAR WORDS

**Homophones** are words that have the same sound but different meanings.

**Homonyms** are homophones.

**Homographs** are words that look the same but are pronounced differently.

**Directions:** In the sentences below, write the correct words from these choices:

**waste, waist, bow, bough**

1. ... snow bent the green \_\_\_\_\_ of cedars and spruces.
2. When the \_\_\_\_\_ breaks, the baby will fall.
3. A dog barks this way: “ \_\_\_\_\_ -wow.”
4. He took a \_\_\_\_\_ on stage.
5. Robin Hood carried a \_\_\_\_\_ and arrow.
6. Almanzo wore a \_\_\_\_\_ of soft red wool.
7. Wear a belt around your \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ your food.
9. There is an old saying: “ \_\_\_\_\_ not, want not.”