

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Inspiring Students to Make A Personal Connection With Reading

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Basic Fellowship Goals

- To bring a unique and memorable experience back to my students
- To help create a lasting impression within my students so they can make a personal connection with reading
- To be a valuable resource for my students and colleagues



Why Laura Ingalls Wilder?

- Laura Ingalls Wilder spent the majority of her adult life in Mansfield , Missouri
- As fellow Missourians my students share a great deal of heritage with Wilder
- Fourth grade students in my district study about Laura Ingalls Wilder
- I wanted to enhance this unit of study and help my students better envision what life would have been like for Laura and the Ingalls family and engage them in the experience
- I wanted to bring life to the scenes of Wilder's books

Personal Impact

- Energized me for the school year and this unit
- Put me in the role of student
- Made me a more valuable resource for my students and colleagues
- Made me a better , more involved reader



Using a coffee grinder to grind wheat just like the Ingalls Family did in the book

*'The Long Winter'
Ingalls Homestead
DeSmet, South Dakota*

Getting ready for a ride in a covered wagon across the prairie at the Ingalls Homestead in DeSmet, South Dakota



Benefits to Students

- Better able to make a real-world connection with Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Better able to identify with an individual who made great contributions to our state and local heritage
- Bring life to the scenes of Laura Ingalls Wilder's books
- Creates a motivation to read



*Plum Creek
Walnut Grove, Minnesota*



*Pepin, Wisconsin
Birthplace of
Laura Ingalls Wilder*

Benefits to Community

- Shared heritage
- Public Relations
- Common Interests and Goals
- Connect generations

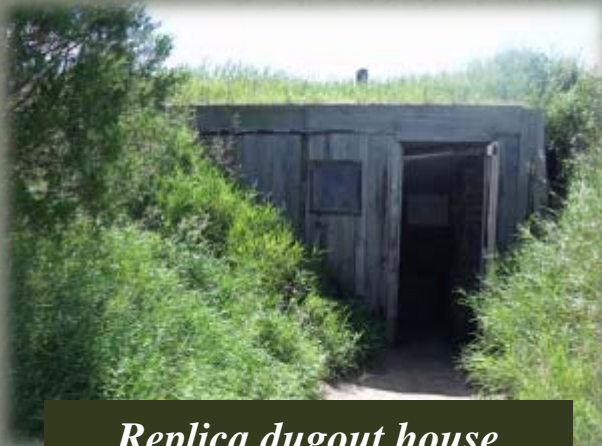
*Train tracks like
Laura described in
her book
'By the Shores of
Silver Lake'*



*The well that Charles
Ingalls dug by hand in
Independence, Kansas*

The Fellowship Experience

- Taught me the true benefit of teachers seeking-out new learning opportunities
- Made me a better, more well-rounded teacher
- Helped me to better understand that assuming the role of student is the greatest thing a teacher can do



*Replica dugout house
DeSmet, South Dakota*



*Replica hay-roof barn
DeSmet, South Dakota*