

How to print this booklet

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Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



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Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Farmer Boy

Author:

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.

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How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

In Chapter 6, the family fills the ice-house. What steps do they take to store ice, and why is this job useful later in the year?

Example answer: First, the family cuts big blocks of ice and hauls them from the frozen water. Then they pack the blocks in the ice-house with sawdust so they will not melt quickly. This job is useful because they can keep food cold in warmer weather. I think it shows how much planning farm families had to do.

How to Answer (continued)

In Chapter 18, the children help keep house while their parents are away. What mistakes or choices show that they are still learning to be responsible?

Example answer: The children try to do grown-up jobs, but they also make some poor choices when no adults are there to guide them. They get excited and do not always think about the consequences. This shows that being responsible is harder than just being left in charge. I think Almanzo learns that freedom comes with work and good judgment.

In Chapter 29, Almanzo thinks about his future as a farmer. Do you think he is ready for more responsibility? Use details from the book to explain your opinion.

Example answer: I think Almanzo is becoming ready for more responsibility, but he still has more to learn. During the book, he works hard with animals, helps with harvesting, and learns from his father. He also makes mistakes, which shows he is still a boy. By the end, I think he truly wants to be a farmer and understands that it takes patience and effort.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, Almanzo goes to school and faces the older boys who like to cause trouble. What does this chapter show about school rules and respect in Almanzo's time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

In Chapter 29, Almanzo thinks about his future as a farmer. Do you think he is ready for more responsibility? Use details from the book to explain your opinion.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, the Wilder family spends a winter evening together at home. What details help you picture their house, work, and family life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

In Chapter 3, the family gets ready for a cold winter night. Why is careful preparation so important for the Wilders?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

In Chapter 28, Mr. Thompson's pocketbook is important to the plot. How do honesty and trust affect the choices characters make in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

In Chapter 27, Almanzo helps with wood-hauling. How does this work test his strength, skill, or judgment?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, Almanzo receives a surprise that matters to him. How does the surprise affect him, and what does it show about what he values?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Almanzo celebrates his birthday. How is his birthday different from birthdays today, and what parts would you enjoy or not enjoy?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

In Chapter 26, the family celebrates Christmas. What gifts or traditions seem most meaningful, and why do they matter to the characters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

In Chapter 25, threshing is hard and important work. What new vocabulary or farm words did you notice, and how can you figure out their meanings from the chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, the family fills the ice-house. What steps do they take to store ice, and why is this job useful later in the year?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, Saturday night has special routines for the family. What do these routines tell you about cleanliness, responsibility, and getting ready for Sunday?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

In Chapter 24, Almanzo wants to use the little bobsled. What might happen if he acts before he is ready, and what lesson do you think he may learn?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

In Chapter 23, the cobbler comes to make shoes. What can you learn from this chapter about goods being handmade instead of bought quickly at a store?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, the Wilder family observes Sunday in a quiet and serious way. How do their Sunday activities show their beliefs and values?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

In Chapter 9, Almanzo works with the calves. What does he learn about patience, courage, and handling animals?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

In Chapter 22, fall changes the farm again. How does the mood of the story shift as the family gets ready for colder weather?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

In Chapter 21, Almanzo goes to the county fair. What does the fair reveal about what the community admires and celebrates?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

In Chapter 10, the year begins to change. What signs of the changing season does the author describe, and how do they affect farm life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

In Chapter 11, spring brings new work and new excitement. Which spring activity seems most important to Almanzo, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

In Chapter 20, the late harvest keeps the family busy. How does the work in this chapter show the connection between effort now and survival later?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

In Chapter 19, early harvest begins. Why does harvesting take teamwork, and what jobs do different family members do?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

In Chapter 12, the tin-peddler visits the Wilder home. What role do traveling sellers play in the family's life, and what makes the visit exciting?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

In Chapter 13, a strange dog appears. What clues help the characters decide whether the dog is a danger or a helper?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

In Chapter 18, the children help keep house while their parents are away. What mistakes or choices show that they are still learning to be responsible?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

In Chapter 17, summer brings heat, food, and farm work. How does the author use sensory details to make summertime feel real?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

In Chapter 14, the sheep are sheared. What does this chapter teach you about how people used animals and natural materials on a farm?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

In Chapter 15, a cold snap creates problems. How do the Wilders respond when the weather becomes dangerous, and what does this show about them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

In Chapter 16, Almanzo experiences Independence Day. What does freedom mean in this chapter, and how do the celebrations help show it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
