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By The Shores of Silver Lake - Laura Ingalls Wilder Chapters 1 & 2 Laura is sure growing up fast. Having to take care of the family while they are all ill is pretty hard to do in modern times let alone then. When Jack died I thought of having to put Mr. Chew to sleep. Jack was telling Laura he was tired and just couldn't make another trip. I was so glad that she made his bed up so he was comfortable on his last night. I think when it is their timet hey try to tell you it is okay to let them go. I know Mr. Chew is probably living it up on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. He had not been able to walk for a year and prior to that he was pretty wobbly. Now he has his back and legs back and is probably running and talking to everyone!!! Chapter 3 I know what it is like to be a blind person eyes and sometimes it was very difficult. It someone has had sight and lost it, it isn't so hard. It was interesting about the water on the train. When I was on the train we did have disposable cups!! Can you imagine having a community cup in this day and age? Chapter 4 Okay what is the end of the song? I don't believe that I can figure it out. Can you believe all of them ate for \$.25? And all you can eat too!! What an experience for them!! Chapter 5 I would not have been a good pioneer because I couldn't sleep on the ground without a blanket!!! Chapter 6 Has anyone rode bareback on a horse? My sister was the horse one in my family, I was always just a bit afraid for some reason. Can you imagine getting married at age 13? I had trouble at 25!! LOL Chapter 7 I can't imagine going to a place that didn't have a store or amenities. Anyone else? Chapter 8 Which do you prefer sunset or sunrise? I can even see myself looking at a sunrise and thinking anot tending to the work at hand. I just get so caught up in the wonderful colors. Laura alwas the rebel wanting to hear rough language!! LOL So who lives in the big house above the lake? Chapter 9 So was Big Jerry really stealing the horses or did he stop the horse thieves? Chapter 10 I would have rather been Laura looking at the making of the railroad instead of staying in the shanty sewing. How about you? Chapter 11 I can't imagine having cash like that and not have been so brave about the threats from the men. Chapter 12 When Laura realized she had to be a teacher because Mary couldn't, I could feel her pain. Anyone else? Anyone slept on a feather bed before? I slept on something like that in a Toronto hotel and I was wonderful and I even had a down comforter. I had to attend a meeting there and I had a very nice room. Chapter 13 I would have hat do so the surveyors house for the winter at least that is just up the hill. Loved the story about getting the horses back for Boast too. Chapter 14 What a change for them to be in a house with walls, windows and a real floor. I can't even imagine what living without those things would be like. Chapter 15 Can you imagine trying to keep predators away? I wouldn't want to let the children go outside. Chapter 16 I am surprised they didn't play more games especially when the days are so short. I know how relaxing knitting is afor me so I can only imagine what it would be like with no distractions. Chapter 18 I am kind of glad the wolves got away too! Why do you think they didn't attack? Chapter 19 What a great way to spend Christmas Eve. Chapter 20 I think it is interesting that Laura and Caroline were worried about the Boasts and Christmas presents. Shows real character in my book. Chapter 21 Anyone ever made their own sour dough? That is one bread I really love. I think it is funny about the popcorn. That is one of the cheapest snacks around. Chapter 22 Anyone ever eaten oyster stew? I am allergic to them my hands break out and itch like crazy. I have made many bowls of it though because growing up on the coast I always worked in restaurants and learned how to cook a lot of seafood dishes. I think it is funny that Mrs. Boast played in the snow with the girls. It just shows that she doesn't like be a grown up all the time. Chapter 23 Isn't it amazing how Laura is just willing to make sacrifices for Mary? I liked the young pastor who was going to "bach" it. Cute story. Chapter 24 I don't think I could done what the Ingalls did taking men into my home and feeding them even if I did charge them especially if they didn't behave. Chapter 25 So Mr. Edwards is closer to them anyways. I am sure we will be seeing him in the later books again. I could just see the scene at the claim office. Anyone else? Chapter 25 That is a lot of meals at \$.25 each to have raised \$40 plus and then when they had to start paying for some of the staples. Kind of felt sorry for Laura here when she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would think that Mary got everything she wanted onion in her stuffing and Mary wanted sage. I could see how Laura would she wanted sage and the Chapter 28 I just can't imagine living in a house like that. I guess if you don't know any different it would be okay though. Chapter 29 Can you imagine how they were feeling about Grace not being found? I would have been a basket case. Glad that Laura used her head to think where she might have gone. Chapter 30 Do you believe horseshoes over the door bring good luck? Chapter 31 Anyone ever hear of smudge to stop mosquitoes? They just love to bite me!!! Chapter 32 What a nice ending. Hope everyone enjoyed this one. Next month we are reading The Long Winter. Are you sure you want to delete this item? It cannot be undone. 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Find sources: "By the Shores of Silver Lake" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (September 2015) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) By the Shores of Silver Lake Front dust jacket, first edition Author Laura Ingalls WilderIllustratorHelen Sewell and Mildred Boyle Garth Williams (1953)[1]CountryUnited StatesSeriesLittle HouseGenreChildren's novel Family sagaWesternPublisherHarper & BrothersPublisherHarper & BrothersPublisher & BrothersPubl Creek Followed by The Long Winter By the Shores of Silver Lake is an autobiographical children's novel written by Laura Ingalls Wilder and published in 1939, the fifth of nine books in her Little House series. It spans just over one year, beginning when she is 12 years old and her family moves from Plum Creek, Minnesota to what will become De Smet, South Dakota. The novel was a Newbery Honor book in 1940, as were the fourth through eighth books in the series.[4] Story The novel is based on Laura's late childhood spent near De Smet, South Dakota, beginning in 1879. Because her sister, Mary, was recently blinded due to scarlet fever, Pa asks Laura to "be Mary's eyes" by describing what she sees, and she becomes more patient and mature through this service. The novel also introduces Laura's youngest sister, Grace. [5] The story begins in Plum Creek, shortly after the Ingalls have recovered from the scarlet fever which caused Mary to become blind. Aunt Docia comes to visit, and suggests that Pa work as the bookkeeper in Uncle Henry's railroad camp for fifty dollars a month. Since Mary is too weak to travel, Pa went ahead with the wagon and team, and the rest of the family followed later by train. The morning Pa is to leave, their beloved old bulldog, Jack, dies in his sleep, saddening Laura greatly. (The dog upon whom he was based was no longer with the Ingalls at that point, but Laura inserted his death here to serve as a transition between her childhood and her adolescence.) Several months later, Ma and the children travel to Dakota Territory by train. This is their first train trip and they are excited by the novelty of this newfangled mode of transportation, which can cover in a few hours the distance a horse and wagon would travel in a day. Pa comes for them in town, and the next day they leave for the railroad camp. Laura and her cousin, Lena, play together when they are done with their chores, which range from collecting laundry washed by a neighbor to milking cows; Laura rides a horse for the first time when Lena allows her the use of her pony. As winter approaches, the railroad workers demolish the buildings in the camp and return east. As the Ingalls have nowhere to stay post-demolition, they plan to return east too, but the surveyors, who had planned to stay for the winter, are called back east and ask them to stay in their house in exchange for keeping watch over their surveying equipment. Laura is excited to move into a beautiful house well stocked with provisions. The newly married Mr. and Mrs. Boast arrive in the middle of a snowstorm. They stay past Christmas, and at New Year's the Ingalls visit the Boasts' small home for dinner. To pass time, Mrs. Boast shares her collection of newspapers with Laura and shows the Ingalls how to make a what-not.[6] Later, Reverend Alden unexpectedly visits, and after learning Mary is blind, informs Ma that there is a college for the blind in Iowa. Laura resolves that she will eventually teach school and help send Mary to college. During a clear night that winter, Laura and Carrie go for a moonlight walk on the lake and encounter a wolf. When Pa goes out the next day to hunt it, he discovers the perfect section of land for their homestead claim. He plans to file on it at the land office in Brookings as soon as the weather improves. However, his departure is delayed by a rush of men moving west who must also stay in the surveyors' building. The money earned from boarding them is later used for Mary's college education. After Pa's return from Brookings, he builds a store building in town so his family can move when the surveyors return. The novel ends as the Ingalls settle into the snug claim shanty on their new land. Historical background To encourage settlement of the midwest part of the United States, Congress passed the Homestead Act in 1862. It divided unsettled land into sections, and heads of households could file a claim was 1/4 of a section was 1-square-mile (2.6 km2; 640-acre), and a claim was 1/4 of a section was 1-square-mile (2.6 km2; 640-acre). Range 38. By paying \$10.00 plus other filing fees, a man could get 160 acres (0.65 km2) of land for his use if he could live on it for 5 years and not give up to go back east. The Ingalls staked one claim near Plum Creek. In the spring of 1880, Charles filed a homestead claim south of De Smet for the NE quarter of Section 3, Township 110, Range 56.[7] A few details in the novel differ from accounts in more autobiographical sources. For example, it seems that Laura never actually visited the railroad grade, but in the house when they moved in and let the Ingalls have it. However, other sources are contradictory and it is unclear whether Pa had to buy the supplies for winter.[9] Reception Virginia Kirkus had handled Ingalls Wilder's debut novel Little House in the Big Woods for Harper & Brothers as its book editor from 1932. In Kirkus Reviews, her semimonthly bulletin from 1933, she awarded this novel a starred review (as she did its two predecessors and one successor, books 3 to 6 and no others). She assessed it frankly as the bookshop's advisor: "One always hesitates as to whether these stories of Laura Wilder's childhood belong with fiction or non-fiction, so place this where you have found the others sell best. ... A splendidly written contribution to factual frontier material, of special interest to the Middle Western market."[2] The novel was the second of five Newbery Honor books for Wilder, books 4 to 8 in the series.[4] Modern influence The Surveyors' House is a Laura Ingalls Wilder historic site in De Smet, South Dakota, attracts many fans with its historic sites from the novels By the Shores of Silver Lake, The Long Winter, Little Town on the Prairie, These Happy Golden Years, and The First Four Years. From 1879 to 1894 the Ingalls lived there. Their homestead, a house in town built by Pa, the Brewster School where Laura taught, and the surveyors' house they lived in between 1879 and 1880 are open to visitors. In addition to the Little House books, four series of books expand them to include five generations of Wilder's family. Their success has produced many related books including two series ("Little House Books") that present the original stories in condensed and simplified form for younger readers. Additional series have been written by other authors to tell the stories of Wilder's mother ("The Rose Years"), grandmother ("The Rose Years"), grand Online Catalog. Retrieved 2015-09-18. ^ a b "By the Shores of Silver Lake" (first edition). Library of Congress Online Catalog (catalog.loc.gov). Retrieved 2015-09-18. ^ a b "Newbery Medal and Honor Books, 1922-Present". Association for Library Service to Children. American Library Service to Children. American Library Service to Children. 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