

Chapters 1–4

Vocabulary:

A *synonym* is a word that means almost the same thing as another word. For example, “windy” is a *synonym* for “breezy.” Both words mean nearly the same thing. Use a dictionary to match the vocabulary words on the left with their synonyms on the right.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ____ hulls | a. footstool |
| 2. ____ thrash | b. teasing |
| 3. ____ jeering | c. straightforward |
| 4. ____ hassock | d. shells |
| 5. ____ impudent | e. beat |
| 6. ____ aboveboard | f. brazen |

Now use each of these words in a sentence of your own.

1. hulls _____

2. thrash _____

3. jeering _____

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4. hassock _____

5. impudent _____

6. aboveboard _____

Descriptive Words:

Adjectives are descriptive words used to help bring to life characters, places, and events in a story. Descriptive words help give readers a clearer picture of the things they are reading about.

Find the passages below from chapter 2 of *Farmer Boy*. Fill in the blanks with the missing adjectives. You could leave these adjectives out and the sentences can still make sense, but notice how these words help give you a clearer picture of the setting.

1. The roof of the _____ - _____ house was rounded with snow, and from all the eaves hung a fringe of _____ icicles.

2. There were three, _____, _____ barns, around three sides of the _____ barnyard. All together they were the _____ barns in all that country.

3. When Almanzo went into these _____ barns, he always went through the Horse-Barn's _____ door. He loved horses. There they stood in their _____ box-stalls, _____ and _____ and _____, with _____ manes and tails.

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Characters:

Every story has characters. Some are very important to the story, and some are less important. Below are a list of characters from *Farmer Boy*. See if you can match the names of the characters on the left with the description of the characters found on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. ____ Almanzo | a. She was a bossy twelve-year-old. “She always knew what was best to do,” and she made the younger children do it. |
| 2. ____ Eliza Jane | b. He was the youngest of all the brothers and sisters. He was not quite nine years old. |
| 3. ____ Royal | c. She was “short and plump and pretty. Her eyes were blue, and her brown hair was like a bird’s smooth wings.” |
| 4. ____ Alice | d. He was Almanzo’s teacher, a “slim pale young man” who was “gentle and patient.” |
| 5. ____ Father | e. He was thirteen years old—the oldest child in the family. |
| 6. ____ Mother | f. She was ten years old—the youngest girl in the family. |
| 7. ____ Mr. Corse | g. He was “a big man, with a long, soft brown beard and soft brown hair,” and he had “pleasant blue eyes that twinkled.” |

Questions:

1. *Farmer Boy* begins by saying that the story takes place sixty-seven years ago. The story was written in 1933. Therefore, in what year does this story take place?

2. Why is Mr. Corse going home with Almanzo after school?

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3. Why does Almanzo have to stay in at recess?

4. Why won't Father let Almanzo handle the young horses and colts?

5. Who was Jonas Lane and how did Mr. Corse know him?

6. What does Almanzo's family have for breakfast? What did you have for breakfast today? Why do you think Almanzo was able to eat so much?

7. What does Almanzo think will happen if Mr. Corse tries to punish the big boys?

8. How does Mr. Corse finally handle the disruptions caused by the big boys? How had Almanzo's father helped Mr. Corse?

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Thinking About the Story:

9. How does the Wilder family spend the evening together in chapter 3? How does your family spend time together?

10. Think of some other ideas for spending time together with your family. List three of them below:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Dig Deeper:

11. Father says that when a man undertakes a job, he has to stick to it until he finishes it. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 3:23, 24. What does this verse tell us our attitude about our work should be?