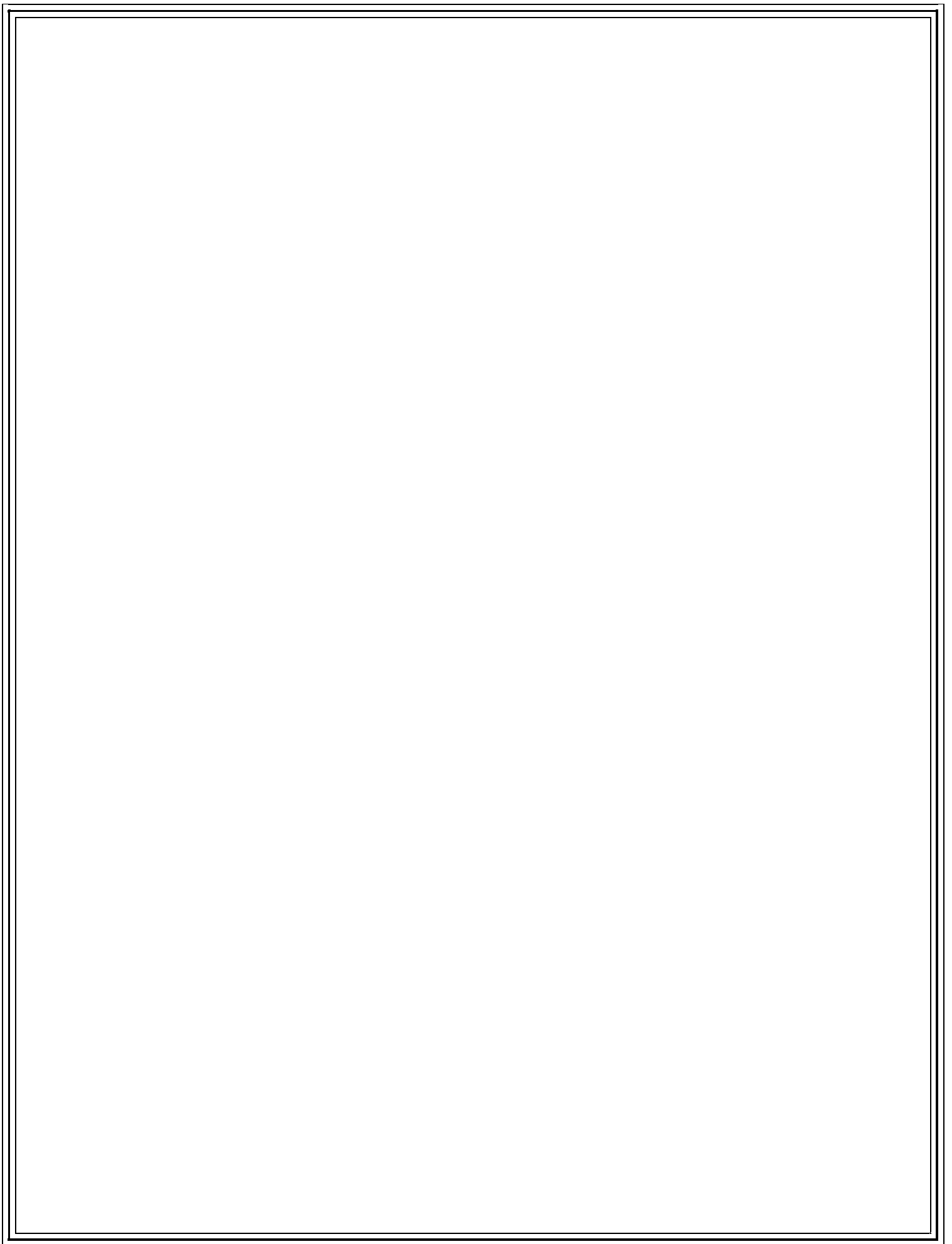


Farmer Boy



Written by Laura Ingalls Wilder

A Reading Guide by Lisa Kelly



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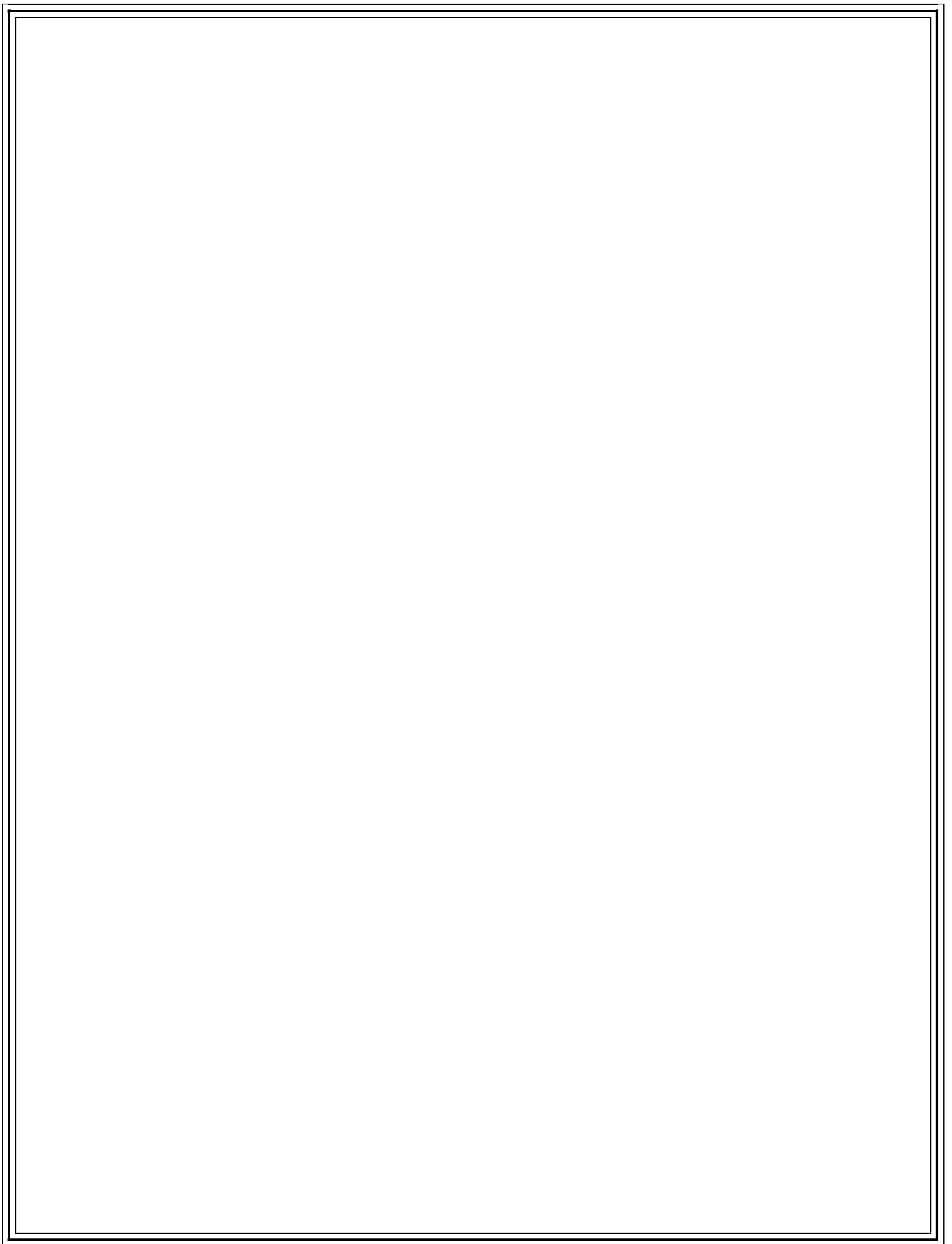
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Lesson Notes

1. “Connection” questions and prompts were written to bridge the gap between chapter readings. They were designed to bring forth what students already know about a topic so that the new information can be connected to it.
2. Have students define the words listed under “Words to Know” either independently or together orally with the teacher. Teachers and students should locate any listed places, read and discuss any notes included at the beginning of each lesson and discuss the pronunciation of any words, as needed.
3. Students should either have the book read aloud to them or should read each chapter (or reading section) together with the teacher or should read the book independently, whichever best fits.
4. After reading, students should narrate. There are multiple narration suggestions for each chapter.
5. Any lessons in literary terms can be included or omitted as it best fits the needs of your students.

Literary Elements & Techniques

- title and author
- simile
- onomatopoeia
- personification
- alliteration

Appendix

See the appendix for a printable coloring page and a printable How-to-Draw-a-Horse page.

Exam Prompts

- Share a favorite scene. What made this scene memorable?
- Illustrate any scene. Give your picture a title or caption and share it, telling about the scene depicted. Why did you choose to illustrate this scene?

There are more exam prompts in the complete guide; this is a sample only.

Chapter 1

- * Read Chapter 1 from *Farmer Boy*.

Before the Reading

Literary Elements

A **title** is the name of a book, story, play or poem.

What is the title of this book? Show your student where to find the title of this book.

An **author** is a person who has written something.

Who is the author of this book? Show your student where to find the author's name.

Name some other authors that you know. If you write something, are you the author?

- Connection: Use the title and cover illustration to help you predict what this book might be about.
- Locate: New York [state]
- Note: The story takes place in 1866. Remind students that this book is part of the "Little House" book series by Laura Ingalls Wilders. This particular book gives us a look into Almanzo Wilder's life as a boy. Almanzo later becomes Laura's husband. The four children in this book are as follows: Royal (13); Eliza Jane (12); Alice (10) and Almanzo (8 –nearly 9).
- Edit the word "Indians" on p. 4 to Native Americans.

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

- Tell of Almanzo and his day at school.
- Should Mr. Corse have punished the boys? Should the big boys behave as they do?
- Tell of this January school day as if Alice.
- Compare Almanzo's school day to your own. In what ways are they similar? Different?

Chapter 11

- * Read Chapter 11 from *Farmer Boy*.

Before the Reading

- Connection: Almanzo and his family have been working hard as spring takes hold. Which would you have preferred: a) making maple syrup & sugar; b) filling baskets with potatoes or c) cleaning the house & cellar? Why? We also read at the end of the previous chapter that "...it was time to work in the fields" (119). What type of work might this be?
- Word to Know: harrowed
- Locate: St. Lawrence River and Canada; make note of the distance from New York to Canada.

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

- Describe the work in the field in "Springtime".
- Why do you think Eliza Jane and Mother are not working in the fields with the rest of the family? Tell of this.
- Create a map or diagram of what the Wilder's fields might have looked like. Give labels and a title and share it with someone, telling of it. [Ex. potato field, wheat field, etc.]
- "Almanzo was a little soldier in this great battle" (124). What is meant by this?
- Tell three things you learned from this chapter.

