Name _____

Faded Photograph

Norman talks about what it was like to live and grow up on a large farm in the North Dakota prairie. His best stories seem to be about the time he spent in the three story barn that seemed to tower over the whole farm. This is where he learned how to take care of animals, milk the cows and how to clean up after them. His stories draw a vivid picture of a young boy with lots of responsibilities at an early age.

When he was six years old Norman had the job of milking two cows in the barn every night. Orangie and Orangie Two were Guernsey cows, which are smaller than other milk cows, and so they were the best choice for a little boy who was just learning how to milk. They were sweet, tame animals and they loved to be hugged, petted, adored and played with. Norman says that Orangie would clean his face with her big, rough tongue if he let her get close enough! She was so tame that he never had to tie her up to milk her. He sat down on a little milk stool next to her, but he had to be careful not to let her walk in the pail and ruin the milk!

During the summer when he was eight years old, Norman milked all twelve of the family cows twice a day. He rode his horse down to the pasture to get them in the early evening. Sometimes he would take a break and swim in the lake near the pasture. If he took too long the cows waited for him at the gate to the barnyard and he'd get in trouble with his dad! Cows know best when it's time to be milked! Each one of them had their own stall and stanchion and they knew which one was theirs and went right to it! These were larger cows and each one weighed about 1,200 pounds. One of them accidentally stepped on Norman's foot when he tried to clean its udders. He screamed and pushed and poked, but that cow wouldn't move until it was good and ready. Norman's foot has never been the same and his toenail still refuses to grow the right way!

Find and circle the special story words. How many did you find?

live_____	draw _____	clean _____	grow _____	best _____

Faded Photograph

I study your picture in my kitchen every day,
Mourning your aging appearance,
So weathered and gray.

Your sagging frame leans into the prairie wind
As you stand there alone,
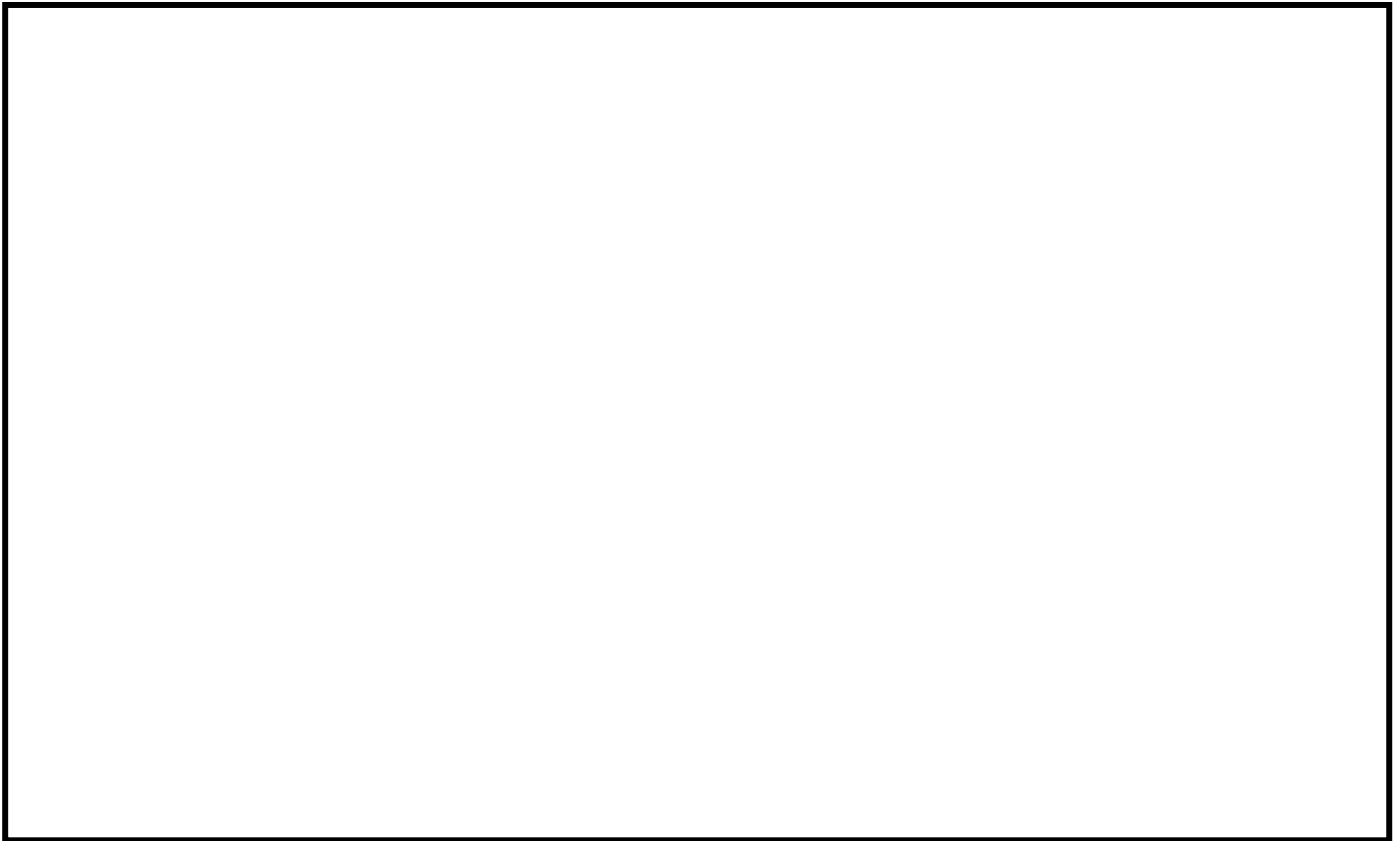Like some long forgotten friend,

You're like a window to my childhood
With its secrets and sorrows
Framed in wood.

What is it about you that draws me to the farm?
You're just a building,
But you're filled with charm.

Will you still be standing there to greet me when I come home?

Update: Norman's barn burned to the ground in the middle of the winter a couple of years ago and all he has left is his memories and the framed photograph on the kitchen wall.

Draw a picture to go with one of your favorite parts of the story.

Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Guernsey cows are _____ for beginning milkers.

   best   boast

2. Norman had to _____ the udders before milking.

   cling   clean

3. Sometimes it was hard to _____ up on a farm .

   grow   grew

Yes or No?

1. Did Norman milk cows when he was five?   yes   no

2. Did he like Orangie and Orangie Two?   yes   no

3. Did he have to tie them up to milk them?   yes   no

4. Did the bigger cows know their own stalls?   yes   no

5. Did one of them step on Norman's foot?   yes   no

It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense. The first one is done for you.

Norman	loved to be hugged and played with.
Guernsey cows	milked two cows when he was six years old.
Orangie	know best when it's time to be milked.
They	are sweet, tame animals.
Cows	has never been the same.
Norman's foot	licked Norman's face with her tongue.

How old was Norman when he first milked cows?

How old was he when he had to milk 12 cows?

Where did he milk the cows?

What did he sit on to do the milking?

What did Norman do when he took a break?