

Name _____

Read the story. Read it again. Can you find the special words in the story? Highlight and count each special word.

Life at Logan

Logan Elementary School, a one room schoolhouse, sat in an empty field in the middle of the North Dakota prairie in the 1940's. It was supposed to be a white building, but the paint was usually peeling from the hot sun in the summer and the freezing snow and wind in the winter. Sometimes there were only five students and sometimes there were as many as ten. A long hallway in the front had lots of coat hooks and a bench that held a jumble of boots, coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and lunch boxes.

A coal shed right next to the school held the coal for the furnace that heated the classroom. The teacher had to bring the coal in every morning and the older students kept the fire burning all day.

The large barn behind the school held the horses that older children were allowed to ride to school during nice weather. Jimmy Cruff, an eighth grader, had to ride his black and white pinto pony every day to lead twenty-five cows to a nearby pasture. He kept his pony in the barn and then drove the cows back home at the end of the day. His sister drove a buckboard wagon that was pulled by a white horse named May. Every morning she had to bring her sisters and all their lunches. She also had to bring the drinking water for the school since there wasn't any running water. The water was carried in a five gallon cream can in the back of the wagon.

No running water also meant that there were no bathrooms in the school. It didn't matter if it was hot, rainy, windy, or snowy. The children and the teacher had to use the two outhouses behind the school.

The teacher was usually between the ages of eighteen and twenty. In those days, all a teacher needed was a high school education and about three months of college before getting a teaching job in a prairie school. She had to teach five to ten children from first grade to eighth grade. Because she came from the city, the teacher usually lived on one of the family farms.

black _____ white _____ ten _____ does _____ bring _____

Draw and label the things that could be found in the front hallway of the school.



Fill in the Blanks

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

1. Sometimes there were _____ children at Logan.
tan ten

2. A _____ horse had to _____ the drinking water.
white right been bring

3. Jimmy rode a _____ and white pinto pony to school.
block black

Yes or No?

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Was Logan a high school? | yes | no |
| 2. Was it in North Dakota? | yes | no |
| 3. Did the school have running water? | yes | no |
| 4. Did the children have to bring lunch? | yes | no |
| 5. Was there one teacher for all grades? | 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.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Logan Elementary | was usually very young. |
| Sometimes there | was a one room schoolhouse. |
| The teacher | could ride a horse to school sometimes. |
| The bathrooms | were only five to ten students. |
| Older children | was heated with coal. |
| The school | were outside behind the school. |

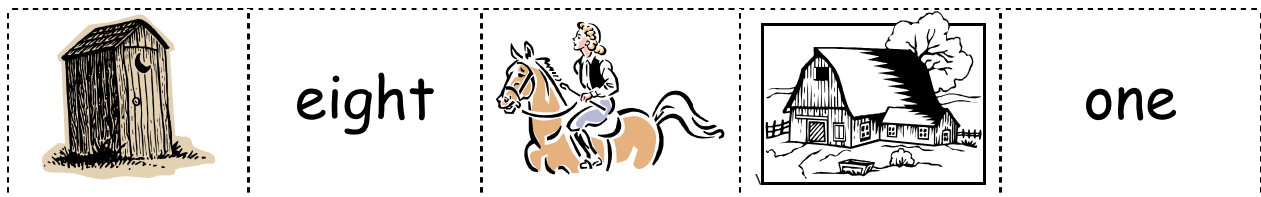
How did older children get to school?

What kind of bathrooms did they have?

Where did the horses stay during school?

How many grades did the school have?

How many teachers worked at Logan?



Reread the story. Think of all the good reasons for being able to ride a horse to school.
Write a convincing letter to the principal that explains why it would be a good idea.



Whoa, Nellie!