



Old Yeller

by Fred Gipson

Family Read-Aloud, January 2009

Week Four

Monday, January 26

Read pp. 90-95

Ponderings:

1. How did Travis feel about the pup that Lisbeth brought him? How do you know? What could Travis have said to Lisbeth to soothe her hurt feelings?
2. Remember a time when you were sick. Who took care of you? How did this person make you feel? Tell your family stories.
3. Who was the guest that was going to stay and help Mama?

Explorations:

Prickly pear cactus has many uses. Want to try some at home?

<http://www.desertusa.com/magdec97/eating/nopales.html>

Tuesday, January 27

Read pp. 96-101

Read-n-Fed in the Machias gym at 6:00 for families with tickets!

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PICNIC BLANKET!

Read-aloud time at the event.

Ponderings:

1. What did Lisbeth do to be helpful around the farm? What kinds of things do you do to help with your family chores? What could you learn about helpfulness from Lisbeth?
2. What chore did Travis really dislike, but when Mama, Lisbeth, and Little Arliss did it, they seemed to have fun?
3. What was wrong with the bull? How do you feel about the way Travis handled the sick bull? What other choices do you think he had?

Explorations:

Learn about picking corn by hand: http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe20s/machines_05.htm

Chore charts to help organize your family chores (parents may like them, but what about the kids?) ☺

http://successfulfamilychores.com/Chore_Charts/

Wednesday, January 28

Read pp. 102-107

Ponderings:

1. What did Mama and Travis have to do with the dead bull and cow? Why?
2. As he was facing all the hardships in this story, who did Travis really miss?
3. Discuss who you most want to have by your side through hard times. Why?

Explorations:

The value of fathers: WATCH D.O.G.S. and more:

http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=60

Who stands by you? Stand by Me: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us-TVg40ExM> (audio needed)

Thursday, January 29

Read pp. 108-117

Ponderings:

1. What did Travis have to do to Old Yeller? How did he feel about it? Tell why. How did you feel when you read this part of the story?
2. Share your own story about a time when you had to do the right thing, but it was a hard decision.
3. What finally helped Travis smile again at the end of his sad story?

Explorations:

View the Disney movie production of the story, *Old Yeller*. At the end, compare and contrast the two versions of the story. Which did you like better? Why?

Ready for another family read-aloud?

If you liked *Old Yeller*, you might want to try one of these books for your next family read-aloud. Check them out from the Machias school library (<http://destiny.sno.wednet.edu/>) or from the Sno-Isle public library system (www.sno-isle.org).

Historical fiction wild west or pioneer stories:

Stout-Hearted Seven by Neta Fraizer
Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan
Rachel's Journal: Story of a Pioneer Girl by Marissa Moss
Seven Alone: On to Oregon by Honore Morrow
Bound for Oregon by Jean VanLeeuwen
Cabin on Trouble Creek by Jean VanLeeuwen
The Captain's Dog by Roland Smith
Seaman: the dog who explored the West... by Gail Karwoski
Red Dog by Bill Wallace
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Brink

Historical fiction wild west or pioneer stories for older readers (grades 4 and up):

Gentleman Outlaw and Me—Eli by Mary Downing Hahn
Great Railroad Race: Diary of Libby West (Dear America) by Kristina Gregory
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare
Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman
Rodzina by Karen Cushman

Dog stories (historical or contemporary fiction):

The Captain's Dog by Roland Smith
Seaman: the dog who explored the West... by Gail Karwoski
Red Dog by Bill Wallace
Sable by Karen Hesse
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Sunder by William Howard Armstrong
Hank the Cowdog by John Erickson
Henry Huggins and Ribsy and *Henry and Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
My Dog, My Hero by Betsy Byars