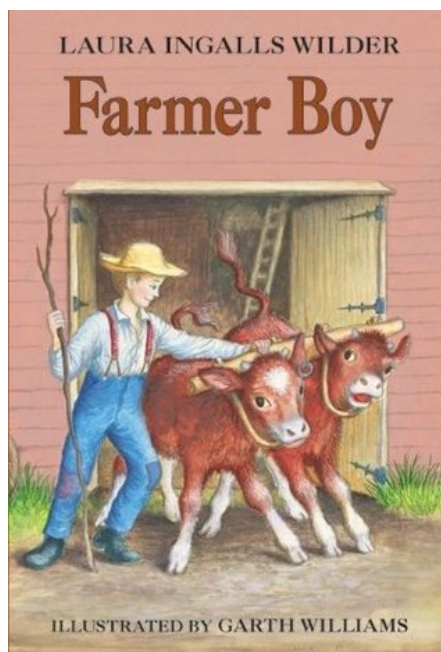




Farmer Boy

Laura Ingalls Wilder , Garth Williams (illustrator)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Farmer Boy

Laura Ingalls Wilder , Garth Williams (illustrator)

Farmer Boy Laura Ingalls Wilder , Garth Williams (illustrator)

The second book in the treasured Little House series, *Farmer Boy* is Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved story of how her husband, Almanzo, grew up as a farmer boy far from the little house where Laura lived. This edition features the classic black-and-white artwork from Garth Williams.

The nine Little House books have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier history and as heartwarming, unforgettable stories. The Little House series has captivated millions of readers with its depiction of life on the American frontier.

While Laura Ingalls grows up on the prairie, Almanzo Wilder is living on a big farm in New York State. Here Almanzo and his brother and sisters help with the summer planting and fall harvest. In winter there is wood to be chopped and great slabs of ice to be cut from the river and stored. Time for fun comes when the jolly tin peddler visits, or best of all, when the fair comes to town.

Almanzo wishes for just one thing—his very own horse—and he must prove that he is ready for such a big responsibility.

Farmer Boy Details

Date : Published April 8th 2008 by HarperCollins (first published October 1st 1933)

ISBN : 9780064400039

Author : Laura Ingalls Wilder , Garth Williams (illustrator)

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Childrens, Classics, Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult

 [Download Farmer Boy ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Farmer Boy ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Farmer Boy Laura Ingalls Wilder , Garth Williams (illustrator)

From Reader Review Farmer Boy for online ebook

E.F.B. says

Another very cute story! This one was different from the Little House books that I've read so far because Almanzo lives on a farm near a town rather than the frontier, but it was still written in the same charming way that gave me all sorts of historical insights.

The characters were enjoyable once again, as well. All unique personalities, not repeats of previous characters, and I especially enjoyed the family dynamic.

Content:

Swearing: On rare occasion it's said someone swore, but the word is not written out.

Violence: The older boys at the schoolhouse are said to have beaten up and run off every teacher that tried to punish them for their misbehavior. The younger kids are therefore afraid the older boys will kill the new teacher, who is skinny and doesn't look like he can defend himself. However, the teacher gets creative and (view spoiler) to defend himself and run the bad boys off when they try to attack him.

Other: When Almanzo's parents go away from home for a week, the kids get into a little mischief, mainly eating too much sugar and not doing their chores. This isn't without consequence though because they then have to rush and do everything when it's time for their parents to come home.

Miranda Reads says

Are you *hungry* yet?

Much of Laura's childhood was spent in **near-starvation**. While they **always had something to eat, it was never enough** for the family to be satisfied.

Thus when Laura wrote about Almanzo (her future husband)'s childhood, she focused on the most idyllic parts and what she wanted for her own childhood and her child - which was **a full stomach and stable home**.

Almanzo simply ate. He ate ham and chicken and turkey, and dressing and cranberry jelly; he ate potatoes and gravy, succotash, baked beans and boiled beans and onions, and white bread and rye 'n' injun bread, and sweet pickles and jam and preserves. Then he drew a long breath, and he ate pie.

I swear, my stomach rumbled every ten minutes!

After a book of this, I began searching for a cookbook (and luckily, there are books aplenty based on this series: The Little House Cookbook, My Little House Cookbook - which I cannot wait to try)

Now, the entire plot of Farmer Boy did not solely revolve around food - we also get a look into farm life from the perspective of a wealthy farmer.

Almanzo's father loved farming and did his best to impress that love to his son - with great success!

There was no time to lose, no time to waste in rest or play. The life of the earth comes up with a rush in the springtime

Reading as Almanzo completed farm chores and tamed his oxen kindled my brief (but fervent) **desire to become a farmer** in fifth grade (well, until the impracticality of city-life ruined that dream!)

That being said, not even Almanzo's cushy childhood was left untouched by the harshness of living in the late 1800s.

If the teacher has to thrash you again, Royal, I'll give you a thrashing you'll remember.

There was one crazy scene where their teacher **cracked a whip** around the school room due to some seriously rowdy teens (could you imagine the look on the PTA Mom's faces?)

While this one was not as endearing nor as thoughtful as Laura's other novels, I certainly enjoyed reading it. This was fun way to learn about life a hundred years ago.

Audiobook Comments

Read by Cherry Jones and accompanied by Paul Woodiel on the fiddle. Love this audiobook.

Tatiana says

SO MUCH WORK! And they all seem to enjoy it, even create MORE work for themselves instead of looking for opportunities to have some leisure time (or a nap at least). I would have never made it in those olden days. I am just too lazy.

Great Book Study says

This one makes me think my kids don't do enough chores around the house!

My review: *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder .

And another review: *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Elise says

Upon finishing *Little House on the Prairie* the kids and I were dying to know where the Ingalls' adventures would take them next but discovered that the next in the series focuses on Almanzo Wilder, Laura's future husband. We were immediately taken in by the descriptions of late 1800's farm life in upper New York State. We were struck in particular by the richness Almanzo's family enjoyed in comparison with the Ingalls who seemed to be moving all the time. One of my favorite features of this book is the lengthy descriptions of Almanzo's mother's cooking. That boy ate more donuts and pie than would be good for anyone not doing the the number of chores he was!

Catherine ? says

This one and *Little House on the Prairie* will forever be some of my favorite childhood stories. It tells of such a realistic story, but with such a beautifully innocent touch that I think really complemented the setting and made the story unforgettable.

Kathryn says

I still didn't love it as well the first few books about Laura's childhood, perhaps because I know and love the Little House stories so well from my own childhood (I know my mom read me "Farmer Boy" but I don't really remember it). That said, I did quite enjoy and appreciate Almanzo's story this time and feel Laura deftly articulated his conundrums being on the cusp of boyhood and young-manhood, both his eagerness to do the more adult work on the farm with his father and older brother as well as the angst of having independent thoughts and wishes but not being able to express them most of the time. I appreciated his gentle, thoughtful nature and earnest desire to be a good, hard worker as well as his abundant love for animals and especially his desire to have a colt of his very own. I didn't feel the siblings and parents were as well-developed as Ma, Pa and Laura's sisters, though I did enjoy some of father Wilder's wisdom and his ultimate gift to his son (both the tangible one and the gift of letting his son chose his own future).

Some of my favorite chapters included Independence Day, Keeping House, Christmas and the final chapter. I must say I was a bit shocked by the first few chapters which talk about the new school master and the abuse he (and the previous school teacher) endured from the big boys from town. It is rather violent and I would probably consider skipping those when I read this to my own son in the future.

Kelly says

I liked this way more than I thought I would. Some quick observations:

1. All this family does is eat and talk about eating and plan around eating.
2. The parents go on a "vacation" for a week to a family's residence 10 miles away and leave the kids alone. Sheer chaos, of course, on the part of the kids.
3. Almanzo's family is way richer than Laura's, but they also seem to work more. Everything is about the value of money to them, which, when they're not eating or talking about eating, is the thing they love talking about. And when Almanzo asks for a dime, he gets a half dollar, then is made to feel guilty about it by his dad.
4. All he wants is a damn colt. And he gets one.
5. THE DRAMA about what Almanzo will be when he grows up. He is 9-10 years old in this book and legally will live on the farm till he's 21. Seems like they should be putting that worry elsewhere for a bit.
6. Like, it was so cold in July they got snow. That's ridiculous and a detail I can't stop LOLing about.

7. WHOOOO BOY the racism and sexism. The things said about Natives in this book are cringeworthy, as are the depictions and the fact that Almanzo and his friends "play Indian." And on the sexism angle, boys are allowed to talk quietly on Sundays but girls are not allowed to talk. And they cook while boys do not.

8. So glad I live in the era of modernity because I swear, this life would bore me to death. Even if I never knew anything else.

David Schaafsma says

Listened to ¾ of this in January, and now, two months later, finished it today, also in the car. And pretty much loved it. This is not about Laura's family, though it's technically listed #3 IN the Little House on the Prairie series. It functions as a kind of contrast in that it is a wealthier farm life experience in New England vs. the Midwestern farm life Laura lived, seemingly near starvation. This book is about her future' husband Almanzo Wilder's family.

As with Laura's family, she describes with practically ethnographic detail what nineteenth-century American farm life was like: Gathering potatoes, cutting up ice, making and selling butter. Kids work on these farms, they learn how to do things, they develop humane relationships with animals (and each other). And when they are done working, they then have seemingly breathless fun together. They make sleds, they make harnesses, they hook them up to a team of horses, and they learn how to trot these horses safely. When they are CHILDREN.

Can anyone imagine a holiday more joyful than Laura Ingalls Wilder describes each and every Christmas??!! But Laura one year gets a PENNY for Christmas; Almanzo gets, in addition to a lot of other things, a KNIFE!?

The food they grow and eat is also a contrast to Laura's farm life, with sumptuous and meticulously described meals, like a certain ham dinner. And there's another contrasting story; at one point Almanzo's mother and father leave for a few days. Some work gets done by the kids, but they use up all the sugar making ice cream, they eat cake and ice cream and watermelon to the point of making themselves sick, they do some property damage, and so on. Amusing.

In the end, Almanzo is given the opportunity to sell bales of hay in town. He is TEN years old. And when he is given the opportunity to apprentice as a wheelwright (look it up, and in a DICTIONARY, kids, that was good enough for me, it'll be good enough for you, you don't need google . . .), well, you know from the title what he chooses to do. Great to listen to, especially with the incomparable Cherry Jones reading!

Cindy Rollins says

Much wailing and gnashing of teeth this morning as we finished Farmer Boy. My student could not believe it was over! Going to be hard to top this one in the coming months. Not sure how many times I have read this but I am thinking five.

I believe after Little House in the Big Woods, it is the best book in the Little House series.

Goodbye, Almanzo. Not sure when we will meet again.

Katie Ziegler (Life Between Words) says

Lovely. I don't remember reading this one as a kid. I think I skipped it because it was about a boy. Silly young Kate. It was wonderful, because of course it was...

Theresa says

I loved all the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, in particular "Little House in the Big Woods", "Little Town on the Prairie" and "These Happy Golden Years". They are books I can read and savor over and over again. But I just need to give a shout out to my absolute favorite Laura Ingalls Wilder book, and that is "Farmer Boy"--to me, Farmer Boy is the under-appreciated middle child of the Laura Ingalls collection. People forget about it just because it doesn't start with "Little" or end with "Prairie". It is about Almanzo, who Laura eventually marries. There are several reasons why I love this book more than the others:

- 1) Almanzo and his family are loaded. Well, compared to Laura they are. They run a much bigger farm than she does and the father is something of a gentleman farmer, not like the wild Charles who is all over the place and doesn't know what he's doing (let's be honest a lot of the books are based around the fact that Charles is a moron--first they leave the big woods, where the rest of their family is. Then they're stuck somewhere on the friggin prairie and have to ford the friggin river and almost lose Jack. Then they're living in some kind of underground burrow. Then they're starving through the winter because Charles is an idiot who can't provide for his family. This never happens to Almanzo's dad.)
 - 2) They take you through the whole farming season, from trashing the hay to cutting up the ice, to gathering potatoes in great, great detail. It's really a pleasure to read. It's also a big farm, like I mentioned so they're more commercial than the Ingalls' farm. You get to see the process of how, for example, they sell their butter, which is pretty cool.
 - 3) THE FOOD. I've never come across another book that is as lushly descriptive as this one in terms of food. I thought Harry Potter might do it at some point but it proved to disappoint in that respect. Being loaded + working from 5 AM in the fields before the days the dangers of saturated fats or Atkins were known = glorious food descriptions. I can't even begin to recount them but I urge that you check this book out for yourself. I'd also make sure to check it out with the original illustrations
-

Philip says

Before I hand the reviewing reigns over to Eleanor, I wanted to say a couple things I took out of this book. (Hopefully she doesn't get too impatient.)

There's a lot in the Laura Ingalls Wilder books written for adults as well as kids. The theme of self-reliance comes through loud and clear. The difference in child-rearing... wow. Hold on:

Me: Eleanor, what does it mean to "speak when spoken to?"

E: It means, "BE QUIET UNTIL YOU ARE SPOKEN TO!!!"

Me: Do you think we should make that a rule in our house?

E: What if I need dessert?

Me: Well, you couldn't ask for it. So, should it be a rule?

E: ...I don't know...

Me: What do you think?

E: Well... if we have a question, we speak. So I don't know about that rule, dad.

Me: You mean you don't like it?

E: No...

That's exactly what I thought. Although, I'd like to add she's been sitting here very patiently waiting to review the book. She hasn't complained or said a word, and it's late. (She was kind of grumpy earlier...)

Me: Weren't you Eleanor.

E: Yeah.

Anyway (me again), like I said, there was a lot in there for grown-ups that is applicable to today.

They were at the fair, and father saw some Belgian horses:

"Father said they were Belgians. They came from a country called Belgium, in Europe. ...Father admired them very much.

'Look at that muscle! They'd pull a barn, if hitched to it.'

Almanzo asked him: 'What's the good of a horse that can pull a barn? We don't want to pull a barn. A Morgan has muscle enough to pull a wagon, and he's fast enough to pull a buggy, too!'

'You're right, son!' Father said. He looked regretfully at the big horses, and shook his head. 'It would be a waste to feed all that muscle, and we've got no use for it. You're right.'"

How apropos for today. For myself. For my country. How often have I looked at something I don't need? Something that has no practical purpose? Even Almanzo's father - the faultless, the diligent - he's even tempted at times.

Eleanor's doing such a good job of waiting for her turn. I'm not sure how to reward her. I've got one more story to tell about her before I let her write her part of the review.

Here's what I wrote down when it happened:

It is shocking, SHOCKING how much Eleanor remembers. We've been reading this book for months and months. I don't sit down and read her a chapter a night, it happens much more sporadically than that. She ALWAYS remembers what chapter we're on. Here's how it went down:

E: What's chapter 22 called?

Me: The Fall of the Year.

E: But I thought chapter 10 was called "The Turn of the Year."

Me: (I'm shocked that she remembered this, as it had been months since we read it.) What was chapter 10 about?

E: Almanzo not going to school.

So, I went back to check, and sure enough she was right. I got up, and told my wife what happened, and she was surprised too. She asked how many chapters Eleanor remembered, and I said, "I don't know." So I asked her. She went chapter 1-3 and at 4 she stopped.

E: I don't want to tell anymore.

(She was getting bored, exasperated, or just plain wanted to stop. Maybe she didn't know any more.)

Me: You don't remember?

E: I do. I just don't want to tell.

Me: (teasing) No, you don't.

E: I do.

Me: ...We'll play the WOO! WOO! WOO! game if you tell. (The WOO! WOO! WOO! game includes me throwing her into the air. ...We don't play that one as much anymore.)

E: OK! Chapter 4- Surprise. Chapter 5-Birthday. Chapter 6-Filling the Ice House. Chapter 7- Saturday Night...

She did all the way up to chapter 22 - which was the chapter we were on at the time. We'd never gone back to practice. It seems crazy to me. Seriously crazy.

Of course, there are times I send her upstairs to tell her mother something and she'll come back down and ask, "What was I supposed to tell?"

Anyway. Sorry for the long story. I know it's a review. I just had to get that story down somewhere.

THE ELEANOR REVIEW

Me: You already told me 5 stars, so why don't you tell me what the book was about. Or tell me your favorite part.

E: I liked when Almanzo was going to get Starlight.

Me: Who is Starlight?

E: A baby colt. And when he's four, Almanzo's gonna start to "gentle" him.

Me: What's "gentle him" mean?

E: I think it means "make him gentle." How do we "gentle" a colt?

Me: I don't know. What other parts did you like?

E: I also liked that he went to the county fair and (view spoiler)

Me: I liked that part too.

E: Why didn't it say about Royal's pets?

Me: I think because this book was mainly about Almanzo.

E: I feel like I could write a book when I grow up. I could write a book about Meeeeeee... And Gwennieeeeeee... And my kids. And you, when you were a little boy, and mom when she was a little girl.

Me: I think you would be very good at writing stories. What else do you want to say about the book? There was a lot in this one, right?

E: You want to take some out?

Me: I don't want to take anything out of the book.

E: Yeah. There was a lot, but it was all good. In chapter one, they went out for recess. I liked when they went out for recess. When did Star and Bright show up?

Me: I don't remember when Star and Bright showed up.

E: You aren't Almanzo.

Me: What do you mean?

E: You're typing. And Almanzo can't type. He's a little kid.

Me: Do you want to know what my favorite part is?

E: What's your favorite part? Tell us!

(view spoiler)

Me: Do you want to say anything else about the book? Any other favorite parts?

E: Well, one more. In CHAPTER 2 they ate a Yuuuummmmmmyyyy dinner, called HAM. Which I love, and we have. Read the review now.

Me: Ok. Here it is.

Audrey says

This was book 6 in the box set I got as a kid (I only made it through five) but was published second and then ordered third with a new edition.

This one was enjoyable because there were more stories than the first couple Little House books: going to school, parents leaving on vacation for a week, county fair. It follows Almanzo Wilder for a little over a year, when he's 9, living in upstate New York on his family's rather prosperous farm.

I can't imagine trying to navigate a farm wearing a hoop skirt (the girls, not Almanzo). The food descriptions are frequent and thorough—with all the calories they burn, they sure need it. I guess I'm a city slicker, because those descriptions of butchering were not appealing. I mean, head cheese??

I don't know how much of the account is fictionalized, but several things astonished me:

- Teen boys beat a teacher to death and got away with it? They weren't jailed or even expelled?
- An American Indian ran a mile in 2:40? Is that even humanly possible?
- Almanzo gets a concussion and a bad sprain, he's expected to just get up and get back to work! That's what happens when kids are told they can't speak unless spoken to.

The Wilders place high value on self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Nearly everything they have they make themselves. They hire someone to make shoes, and even then they provide the materials.

Wendy Darling says

My annual re-read, this time with Heidi! :)

My favorite of the Little House books from start to finish, but especially the chapter where Ma and Pa go away for a week and the house falls into disarray as the children eat cake, slice watermelon, blacken the parlor wall, and most importantly, use up all the sugar making ice cream. Still no other author has ever captured the life of pioneers in quite this way, and the good eats will make your mouth water!
