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Little Author In The Big Woods: A Biography Of Laura Ingalls Wilder (Christy Ottaviano Books)



Synopsis

Many girls in elementary and middle school fall in love with the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. What they don't always realize is that Wilder's books are autobiographical. This narrative biography describes more of the details of the young Laura's real life as a young pioneer homesteading with her family on many adventurous journeys. This biography, complete with charming illustrations, points out the differences between the fictional series as well as the many similarities. It's a fascinating story of a much-celebrated writer.

Book Information

Series: Christy Ottaviano Books

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Book Description: Here is the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author as well as the heroine of the beloved Little House books. While the series is based on Wilder's childhood experiences, this narrative biography describes more of the details of the young Laura's real life- as a pioneer and homesteader with a zest for adventure and new challenges- and points out the differences from the fictional series as well as the similarities. Readers of all ages will enjoy this fascinating look at a much celebrated writer. Recommended for elementary and middle school children in grades 3-6, adults alike will enjoy this wonderfully written classic biographical book about the famous author many have come to love and cherish. This is an invaluable addition to your old collection of Little House books! Format and illustrations seamlessly make this book appear as if it were part of the

Little House original collection rather than written 82+ years later. If the clever title doesn't immediately pull you in, then the timeless illustrations will. Gifted illustrator, Jennifer Thermes, has a talent that matches Renee Graef, illustrator of the My First Little House picture books. Thermes, as well as Graef remind the reader of the books many of us fondly remember – the reissued 1953 – illustrations by Garth Williams and his pencil, charcoal and ink illustrations that have now become synonymous with the much-loved Little House Books. The illustrated map at the beginning of the book is extremely helpful for the young reader to visualize the places and distance Laura and her family traveled to and from by buggy and later by train.

Once again Ms McDonough didn't let her readers down in this biography of Laura Wilder. Just like her other biographies she has written she does her research to make sure what she writes is as true as she can get it. There are many biographies on Ms Wilder but so many of the authors of those took their own opinions on the events that took place 100 years ago and wrote it as fact. Where as Ms McDonough took many of her sources and compiled them and wrote on only the things she knew were factual, which as a fan of Laura Ingalls Wilder I appreciate. This gives the reader information they don't have to put the book down and say "I wonder if that was really true". Written in a way a youth would understand but not so simplistic that an adult (as myself) wouldn't enjoy. Also something I REALLY appreciated was the fact that she took the relationship between Caroline (Ma) and Laura and took off with it. Not much is really said about Ma as she was the more quieter of the parents. Seemed to be the stricter and 'in the shadow' parent. But in reality Laura loved her Mother more than life itself; Caroline influenced her and taught her many, many things and it shows in this book. In other books I've read it kind of implies that Laura loved her Pa much, much more than she did her mother and even gears us toward her holding hard feelings toward Caroline for some of the things Laura had to do in her life to help the family. But in reality Laura held no ill feelings toward either parent and she did what she did because her parents had instilled in her the importance of being a family. The illustrations in this book are wonderful to look at as well. The original Little House on the Prairie books were illustrated by a different illustrator other than Garth Williams.

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