

PREPARING IN YOUR CLASSROOM FOR YOUR VISIT

Visiting the Mackinaw Area Heritage Village will become one of your favorite field trip experiences with your students. It is a place where you step back in time to an era in area history, beginning in 1888. This was a time when no one had heard of an airplane, a cell phone, a computer, and a television set. There was no electricity and there were no cars, no trucks and no busses. Transportation was by foot, bicycle, boat, train, wagon, carriage and horseback. All letters were hand delivered. The telephone was becoming commonplace on the walls of people's homes.

Teacher Information

Some pre-visit activities to share with your students before you come to the historic village are listed below:

1. Rules for Department Typical for This Time Period

(You may want to have your class practice some of these before you visit Freedom School.)

1. Respect your schoolmaster.
2. Do not call your classmates names or fight with them. Love and help each other.
3. Never make noises or disturb your neighbors as they work.
4. Do not leave your seat without permission.
5. At the end of the class, wash your hands and face. Wash your feet if they are bare.
6. Bring firewood into the classroom for the stove whenever the teacher tells you to.
7. Go quietly in and out of the classroom.
8. If the master calls your name after class, straighten the benches and tables. Sweep the room, dust, and leave everything tidy.

2. Read aloud or as a class

(Highly Recommended, call MAHS for a hard copy) Peters, Mary Lou, [Diary of Mary Anderson](#). Mackinaw City, MI: Mackinaw Area Historical Society, 2009. Mary's diary tells about her thoughts while her father has been quarantined in the pest house because he has a contagious disease.

(Highly recommended, get from Web site) The Truant. From *McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader*, ed. William Holmes, New York: American Book Company, 1879, pp. 27-29.

Brink, Carol Ryrie, [Caddie Woodlawn](#). New York, Macmillan Publishing Company: 1935. This is a story of the adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on a Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century.

Lenski, Lois, [Prairie School](#). New York: Dell Publishing Company. 1967. Portrayal of one winter in a one-room school in rural South Dakota. Delores and Darrell, with their schoolteacher Miss Martin, use their wits to survive the Great Blizzard of 1949 when stranded in the schoolhouse on the prairie.

Porter, Connie Rose, [Addy Learns a Lesson: A School Story](#). Middletown, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1993. Story takes place in 1864.

Shaw, Janet Beeler, [Kristen Learns a Lesson: A School Story](#). Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 1986. This story takes place in 1854.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, [By the Shores of Silver Lake](#). New York: Harper Trophy. 1973. By the Shores of Silver Lake is the fictionalized account of Laura Ingalls experiences in South Dakota during the expansion of the railroad.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, [Farmer Boy](#). New York: Harper Collins Publications Inc: 1933. While Laura Ingalls grows up in a little house on the western prairie, Almanzo Wilder is living on a big farm in New York State. Almanzo and his brother and sisters work at their chores from dawn to supper most days – no matter what the weather. There is still time for fun, though, especially with the horses that Almanzo loves more than anything.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, [Little Town on the Prairie](#). New York: Harper Trophy. 1953. Laura is almost fifteen years old and nearing the completion of her schooling. She hopes to become a teacher so she can help send money to her sister Mary who is attending a school for the blind in Iowa. But, in the meantime, she learns all about growing up. She also finds herself with a new beau.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, [Those Happy Golden Years](#). New York: Harper Trophy. 1973. The adventures of Laura Ingalls and her family continue as Laura grows up in the little town on the prairie. Fifteen –year-old Laura lives apart from her family for the first time, teaching school in a claim shanty twelve miles from home. She is very homesick, but keeps at it so that she can help pay for her sister Mary's tuition at the college for the blind. During school vacations Laura has fun with her singing lessons, going on sleigh rides, and best of all, helping Almanzo Wilder drive his new buggy. Friendship soon turns to love for Laura and Almanzo in the romantic conclusion of this Little House Book.

3. Read aloud the poem about the Presidents of the United States as a lesson in history and elocution (download from our Web site).

4. Go over the Vocabulary Lists and, optionally, duplicate the enclosed Word Search for your students to solve (download from our Web site).

5. Post Quarantine sign in classroom as discussion point. (download from our Web site).

What to Wear:

If you are making a daytime visit, the day will seem more authentic if the students come in a costume that somewhat matches the dress of the 1880's. Girls could wear a long skirt of their mother's, with a long sleeved blouse and a shawl. Boys could wear long pants stuffed into their socks to look like knickers, a cotton shirt and bow tie or kerchief tied around their neck.

Patterns for simple hats can be found at the following Web sites:

http://hoover.archives.gov/LIW/sunbonnet/activities_sunbonnet.html and

http://hoover.archives.gov/LIW/strawhat/activities_strawhat.html

Teachers and/or chaperones may dress in costume if they like. Many times there were older students who had not had the privilege of attending school when they were young. The adult chaperones could act as the older students.

