



Read-Alone

The Cabin Faced West

by Jean Fritz



Read-Alone Guide Answer Key by Nicole Nadler

Illuminations Year Four

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~ **Weeks 1 and 2** ~

Supplies

- *The Cabin Faced West* by Jean Fritz

Week 1 - Day 1

- Read Chapter One.

Vocabulary

- hearth (n): *[the extended front of a fireplace usually made of brick]*
- jut (v): *[to stick out]*
- linen (n): *[a type of fabric]*

Discussion Generators

1. Ann's father said that they had "cast our lot with the West." What does this mean? *[They have put all of their hope and faith into the West.]*
2. What was the rule that Daniel and David made? *[Whoever complains about the West will get a bucket of cold water thrown on their head.]*
3. How does Ann describe her baby brother? *[Ten weeks old, mostly eats and sleeps, sweet, pink, and new-smelling]*
4. What possessions does Ann keep hidden? *[Her blue Gettysburg shoes, two blue satin hair ribbons, Semanthie, and her diary]*

Week 1 - Day 2

- Read Chapter Two.

Vocabulary

- scuff (v): *[to scrape or rub with one's foot]*
- Alleghenies (n): *[a river flowing in Northwest Pennsylvania]*
- squatter (n): *[someone who settles on land that they do not own or pay rent on]*
- smart (v): *[to feel a sharp, stinging pain, as in a wound]*
- swift (adj): *[quick]*
- impish (adj): *[mischievous]*

- shaggy (adj): *[long and untidy]*
- slouch (adj): *[not sitting or standing up straight, but with the back bent]*

Discussion Generators

1. Where is Ann's favorite spot to sit on the side of the road? *[In front of a group of trees that formed a half circle around her]*
2. Who is Andy McPhale? *[He is the new squatter boy.]*
3. Andy pronounces the word "educated" incorrectly. What does this tell you about him? *[That he has never gone to school and has never been taught]*
4. Why won't Andy skip rope? *[He says that men and boys are not supposed to skip rope; it's just for girls.]*
5. Why did Andy's mother send him for? *[To tell Ann's mother that she was feeling poorly and would like Mrs. Hamilton to come and sit with her]*

Hands-On Activities

- Do you have a favorite spot to go sit, like Ann? Do you like to read, write, or just think when you are there? If you don't have a spot, go find one! It could be in your basement, backyard, closet, or somewhere else that you can make special. Then write about your spot, or draw a picture of it, and make sure to include what you do there.
- Mrs. Hamilton is going to bring some food to the McPhales, including johnny cakes, and now you can make your own!

Johnny Cakes (to make 12)

1/4 cup of sugar

1 egg

2 cups of white yellow cornmeal

1 tsp. salt

1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups of milk

Mix the egg and sugar, then stir in the cornmeal, salt, and milk. Drop spoonfuls of batter onto a well-greased hot griddle and fry to a golden brown on each side. Stir batter occasionally to keep well mixed. Serve hot with butter.

- Have you ever forgotten to do something really important, just like how Ann forgot to tend to the fire? What did you do in your situation? Write a paragraph or two about it.

Week 1 - Day 3

- Read Chapter Three.

Vocabulary

- swagger (n): *[confidence and arrogance]*
- tinderbox (n): *[a box that contains materials that can start a fire]*

Discussion Generators

1. Why did Andy lie about his mother sending him to get Mrs. Hamilton? *[He was worried about her feeling poorly, and his father had been away for many days.]*
2. Why do Mr. Hamilton and his sons think that the McPhale's won't be able to survive in the West? *[They do not plant, and they do not plan well.]*
3. What does Mr. Hamilton say about sunshine? *[That it is gold in your pockets]*
4. What does Mrs. Hamilton ask Ann to do before she leaves, and how does she feel about this job? *[Mrs. Hamilton asks Ann to build up the fire and keep it cared for and lit. Ann says that this is the most important job of the day.]*
5. What did Andy kill with his slingshot? *[A wild turkey]*
6. What did Ann use to spell Andy's name? *[Peapods]*
7. How did Ann offend Andy? *[She asked him why his family doesn't plant.]*
8. What does Ann decide to do to get the fire going again? *[She is going to go to her Aunt and Uncle's house to see if they can help.]*

Week 1 - Day 4

Assignment

- Read Chapter Four.

Vocabulary

- tinker (v): *[attempt to repair or mend something, but usually without success]*
- ammunition (n): *[a large amount of bullets and shells]*
- peter (v): *[to gradually decrease]*
- midst (n): *[in the middle point]*
- hoot (n): *[a short, loud outburst of laughter]*

Discussion Generators

1. What does Ann say the difference between a road and a street is? *[A street is businesslike with only expected things happening, but a road contains mysteries and secrets to tell.]*
2. Who does Ann meet on the road and how does he help her? *[She meets Arthur Scott who helps her re-light the fire so she doesn't get in trouble.]*
3. What does it mean to put someone's name in the pot? *[To invite them to stay for dinner]*
4. What does Ann hope her mother will make? *[Fried wonders]*
5. Why does Mrs. Hamilton not want to use the china plates and a linen tablecloth? *[It is a Monday and would be inappropriate.]*
6. How old was Arthur Scott when he was at Valley Forge, and what did he do there? *[He was thirteen and he drove the ammunition wagon]*
7. Who was Rachel Peck? *[A girl about Ann's age who gave the soldiers food during the wintertime at Valley Forge]*

8. Why does Daniel get angry with Ann? *[She interrupts the men when they are talking]*
9. How did Daniel break The Rule? *[He complained that Western girls are not ladies and have bad manners.]*

Hands-On Activity

- Fried Wonders are just like old fashioned donuts, and you can make some of your own! This recipe makes 36 donuts, so if you want to make less, just divide all of the amounts in half.
3 ½ cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 ground nutmeg
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup buttermilk (regular milk will work just fine)
Vegetable oil for frying
Granulated sugar, powdered sugar or cinnamon and sugar for garnish
- In a medium bowl, mix together all of the dry ingredients, then in a larger bowl mix together all of the wet ingredients, except for the milk, with an electric mixer if you have one. Then, alternately stir in the flour mixture with milk to the creamed mixture, stirring only until just mixed. Cover and refrigerate dough for at least 1 hour or overnight. Preheat oil in a deep-fat fryer or Dutch oven to 375°F (if you don't have either of these, a large deep pan would work as well) On a lightly floured work surface, roll dough and cut out doughnuts using a floured cutter. (If you do not have a cutter, just roll the dough into the shape of a doughnut.) Fry doughnuts until underside is golden brown, turn and brown the other side. Lift the doughnuts out using a slotted spoon, and let them sit on a stack of paper towels until the oil has drained off. Put powdered sugar or cinnamon and sugar into a paper bag, then place warm doughnuts in bag and shake to coat well.
Makes about 36 doughnuts.

Week 2 - Day 1

- Read Chapter Five.

Vocabulary

- venison (n): *[the meat of a deer]*
- proposition (n): *[a suggested plan or idea]*
- defiance (n): *[obvious disobedience]*
- full-fledged (adj): *[completely established]*
- forsaken (adj): *[abandoned and deserted]*
- snoop (n): *[someone who looks around into someone else's personal belongings]*
- interfere (v): *[to get in the way of something, to bother]*

Discussion Generators

1. Why did Arthur Scott want to move West? *[He wanted land, and he could afford more land in the West than in the East.]*
2. Who was spying on Ann and Arthur? *[Andy]*
3. Where did Arthur go? *[To his new land even farther West]*
4. Why did Andy say he was spying on Arthur? *[He didn't like him because as long as he was around, Ann wouldn't want to spend time with Andy.]*
5. What was Ann doing when Arthur returned? *[Teaching Andy the rule about "i before e except after c"]*
6. What does Arthur say to Ann before he leaves? *["Don't let that fire go out before I come back next spring."]*
7. Who did Ann write about in her diary? *[Arthur, General Washington, and Rachel Peck]*
8. What did Andy write in the dirt? *[Good Ridence]*

Hands-On Activity

- Have you ever felt like Andy, left out because your friend found a new friend? What did you do in this situation? Write a letter of advice to Andy. You could remind him that he'll always have a friend in Jesus, and maybe share some Bible verses with him that would encourage him.

Week 2 - Day 2

- Read Chapter Six.

Vocabulary

- bank (n): *[the side of a creek that slopes down]*
- foothold (n): *[a secure spot]*
- slab (n): *[a large flat piece of stone]*
- deserter (n): *[someone who abandons their friends and family in a time of need]*
- lash (v): *[to whip or beat harshly]*
- flimsy (adj): *[weak, not able to withstand very much]*
- earnest (adj): *[with serious intention and effort]*
- tattered (adj): *[ripped and torn]*

Discussion Generators

1. What happened when Ann went to go find her diary? *[She discovered that it was missing.]*
2. What did Ann decide to do to make herself feel better? *[Have a tea party with Semanthie]*
3. What happened when Mrs. Hamilton found Ann? *[She sat down and played pretend with her.]*
4. What does Mrs. Hamilton tell Ann her Uncle will bring back from the East for her? *[A pair of new shoes]*

Hands-On Activity

- Have your own tea party, just like Ann (even if you are a boy). Get together some friends, toys, or both and create a pretend place just like Ann did. Set out some jungle animals and pretend you are having lunch in the jungle, or sit on a blue blanket and pretend you are on a boat. Try to choose foods that go along with your theme (like eating Goldfish if you're on a boat or gummy worms if you're in the jungle).

Week 2 - Day 3

- Read Chapter Seven.

Vocabulary

- entry (n): *[a recording of an event by writing it down]*
- herald (n): *[an angel that announces important news]*

Discussion Generators

1. What did David show Ann when they rode the horses? *[Where they want to build a church]*
2. According to David, how can a person tell if someone is wicked? *[He says that it usually shows on his face.]*
3. What did Andy's mother send him for? *[To tell Ann's mother that she was feeling poorly and would like Mrs. Hamilton to come and sit with her]*
4. Why does Andy say that he won't need lessons anymore? *[His family is leaving to go back East]*
5. What did Andy's father say he could do over the winter? *[Go to school]*
6. What does Ann daydream about doing with Margaret? *[Sharing a bedroom, walking to church together, trading calico squares for the doll dresses, etc.]*
7. Why did Andy's family have to come to the Hamilton's home? *[The shack wasn't strong enough to withstand the storm.]*
8. Why did Ann go back out into the rainstorm? *[To save the peas]*
9. Why does Ann tell Andy that she won't go back East? *[Mrs. Hamilton told Ann that she didn't know what she'd do without her.]*
10. What Psalm did Mr. Hamilton quote? *[Psalm 23]*
11. Why was Ann in awe of her father? *[He wasn't discouraged by the storm and was only thankful.]*

Hands-On Activity

- Ann is patiently waiting for David to return her diary to her. If you were Ann, would you be as patient? What would you do if you were in this situation? Write your answer down in a paragraph or two.
- Think about the biggest storm that you have ever seen. Draw a picture of it or write a poem describing it.

Week 2 - Day 4

- Read Chapter Eight and A Postscript from the Author.

Vocabulary

- dignified (adj): *[honorable]*
- dusk (n): *[the time of day after the sun sets just before the sky becomes dark]*

Discussion Generators

1. Who took Ann's diary and why? *[Andy, because he was mad]*
2. What did he do to it? *[He put a new deerskin cover on it.]*
3. Why did Mrs. Hamilton tell Ann that this was "not her day"? *[She cut her finger, spilled milk, tore her dress, and whenever she picked up the baby, he cried.]*
4. Ann talks about the road having grandness to it and holding a glorious secret. This is an example of what type of literary element? *[It is foreshadowing. **Foreshadowing** occurs when something is hinted at earlier in the story that suggests that something will happen later on.]*
5. At first, who did Ann think was on the horses? *[The Doane Gang]*
6. Who was really riding the horses, and what did they want? *[Dr. Craik and men in General George Washington's party were riding the horses, they wanted to know if Ann's family would host General Washington for dinner.]*
7. What did Ann's mother tell her that it was time for? *[The linen tablecloth and the lavender flowered plates]*
8. What did the group eat for dinner that night? *[Cornbread, peas, venison, potatoes, grape jelly, and pumpkin bread]*
9. Why did General Washington say he envied Ann? *[She would live to see the West turned into a rolling farmland with churches, barns, and houses.]*
10. How did Ann feel about Hamilton Hill after General Washington left? *[She felt that it had never looked so beautiful and that she had begun to love it.]*
11. Who did Ann receive a letter from? *[Margaret]*
12. Why did Ann say that her cup runneth over? *[She was filled with happiness about Margaret being able to come out West.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Have you ever met someone who you admired as much as Ann admired General Washington? If you have, write a paragraph or two describing it. If not, write about what it would be like to meet them. What would you say? What do you think they would be like? You can draw a picture of the two of you as well if you'd like.
- Who is your best friend? Is it a family member, like Margaret? Is it an old neighbor that you've moved away from? Write your best friend a letter, even if they live right across the street! Tell them whatever you want, about your day, a movie you saw, or why they are your best friend. At the end of the letter, ask them to write you back so you can become pen pals. When you are finished writing the letter, put a stamp on it and mail it!