

# The First Four Years

By Laura Ingalls Wilder

## Q and A Discussion Guide

### The Year of Grace, Year Four

1	Why did Laura stop helping in the field?	Rose could have been hurt. She was too little for Laura to be so busy and not watching over her.
2	At the end of three years, and the agreement was farming would end if it hadn't worked out. What happened?	Almanzo talked Laura into trying another year.
3	What did Almanzo buy the fourth year?	Almanzo bought two Durham oxen which were cheap. He needed them to do the work.
4	How was the fourth winter?	Cold but there were no bad storms.
5	What did Almanzo and Peter do much of the winter?	They tended the stock which was a huge amount of work.
6	What happened when Almanzo and Peter were a mile from home and it was snowing?	It was dark and wolves were howling. They were worried the wolves would get the sheep.
7	What helped Laura get through the winter when she was sick (pregnant)?	A neighbor gave her some books.
8	What happened in the April storm?	Almanzo made it home safely, then he went to look for Peter. The sheep kept being blown over by the wind. Then there was a terrible Prairie fire.
9	After the fire, what did they do?	Almanzo reseeded the oats and wheat.
10	Were the sheep worth the investment?	Yes, and more! The wool was sold and there were baby lambs too.

11	Why did Rose almost have accidents?	On the farm, dangerous things could happen to Rose, but Laura did not want her to only stay in the house. And Laura's work took all day.
12	Who was home when the tornado came?	Laura and Rose were alone.
13	What happened to the baby boy?	He died of spasms before the doctor could even arrive.
14	Did they still owe money?	Yes, so much. (see page 120)
15	What happened to their home when Laura and Rose were alone?	It burned down before neighbors could get there and help.
16	How did they live after the fire?	First, they lived with Pa. Then, Mr. Sheldon gave Laura and Manly houserom and use of his furniture in exchange for board for himself and his brother. Laura had to feed and clean up after them, her family, and Peter. Then Almanzo and Peter built a shanty house of tar-paper in September.
17	After all that happened, did they give up farming?	No. Almanzo remained hopeful and Laura had spirit to deal with it all, after all.