

## Year 5

# Danger on the Prairie 2

## Inference 2d

During the journey, it seemed I was always in charge of watching Mary. When I complained to Ma, she said, “Now, Emma, looking after your sister is one of the most important tasks you can do. It’s a great compliment that Pa and I trust you enough to protect our youngest child. We feel that you are responsible and caring, and we know that Mary is in good hands with you.”

When the caravan arrived in Kansas, all the families went off to settle on their own plots. “Pa, what happened to all the trees?” I asked as I looked at the flat, dusty land.

Pa smiled. “Emma, we are out on the plains now. There are very few trees, and the land is mostly flat.”

“How will we build our house if there are no trees to cut?”

“We will use what nature has given us,” Pa answered.

What could Pa be thinking? There was nothing on the plain but dust and grass.

“We’ll build our house with sod. We will cut blocks of earth and let them dry in the sun. We can use the blocks to build our new home.”

He added, “First, we have to get the ploughing done to prepare the soil. The crops must have time to grow and be harvested before winter. There will be time to build a house after we plant our crops.”

Pa and Jacob planted the crops. They sowed seeds for corn, squash and beans. Then we all worked together to build our house.

We made bricks from sod. When the house was done, it had one big room. Pa had made a wooden frame for a small window to let in light. Ma hung blankets from the ceiling to divide the space into separate areas for sleeping, cooking and eating.

The sod house was nice and cool, protecting us from the hot sun that beat down on the plain. One of my tasks was sweeping the dirt floor every morning. I also had to haul water from the stream and help Ma in her “kitchen garden”.

The kitchen garden was a small garden right next to the house. Ma had brought seeds with her for vegetables like potatoes, peas and peppers. We didn’t sell anything from the kitchen garden. This was our food, and it had to last us through the winter. Ma was very careful about saving as much as she could. It took half a day to travel to the nearest town, and Ma was worried about running out of food during the long winter months ahead.

We gradually grew accustomed to life on the prairie. When I think about that time, one day in particular stands out in my mind.

# Questions

1 Read the extract below:

*‘During the journey, it seemed I was always in charge of watching Mary. When I complained to Ma, she said, “Now, Emma, looking after your sister is one of the most important tasks you can do.”’*

How did Emma feel about looking after Mary?

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Find **one** word from the text that supports your answer above.

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2 Read the extract below:

*‘The sod house was nice and cool, protecting us from the hot sun that beat down on the plain. One of my tasks was sweeping the dirt floor every morning. I also had to haul water from the stream and help Ma in her “kitchen garden”.’*

Tick **one** statement that is true about the new house.

Tick **one**.

It was similar to a modern-day home.

It did not have a carpet.

It was hot.

3 Read the extract below:

*‘Pa and Jacob planted the crops. They sowed seeds for corn, squash and beans. Then we all worked together to build our house.’*

How can you tell that the family are good at teamwork?

Give **one** way.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4 Read the extract below:

*'The sod house was nice and cool, protecting us from the hot sun that beat down on the plain. One of my tasks was sweeping the dirt floor every morning. I also had to haul water from the stream and help Ma in her "kitchen garden".'*

*'The kitchen garden was a small garden right next to the house. Ma had brought seeds with her for vegetables like potatoes, peas and peppers. We didn't sell anything from the kitchen garden. This was our food, and it had to last us through the winter. Ma was very careful about saving as much as she could.'*

Draw **two** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.

Ma

helpful

Emma

sensible

5 Read the second to last paragraph below:

*'The kitchen garden was a small garden right next to the house. Ma had brought seeds with her for vegetables like potatoes, peas and peppers. We didn't sell anything from the kitchen garden. This was our food, and it had to last us through the winter. Ma was very careful about saving as much as she could. It took half a day to travel to the nearest town, and Ma was worried about running out of food during the long winter months ahead.'*

What **impression** do you get of Ma?

Give **one** impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

a) Ma is \_\_\_\_\_

b) I know because it says \_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

1 Read the extract below:

*‘During the journey, it seemed I was always in charge of watching Mary. When I complained to Ma, she said, “Now, Emma, looking after your sister is one of the most important tasks you can do.”’*

How did Emma feel about looking after Mary?

**Not happy/annoyed/frustrated (or similar).**

Find **one** word from the text that supports your answer above.

**Complained.**

2 Read the extract below:

*‘The sod house was nice and cool, protecting us from the hot sun that beat down on the plain. One of my tasks was sweeping the dirt floor every morning. I also had to haul water from the stream and help Ma in her “kitchen garden”.’*

Tick **one** statement that is true about the new house.

Tick **one**.

It was similar to a modern-day home.



It did not have a carpet.

It was hot.

3 Read the extract below:

*‘Pa and Jacob planted the crops. They sowed seeds for corn, squash and beans. Then we all worked together to build our house.’*

How can you tell that the family are good at teamwork?

Give **one** way.

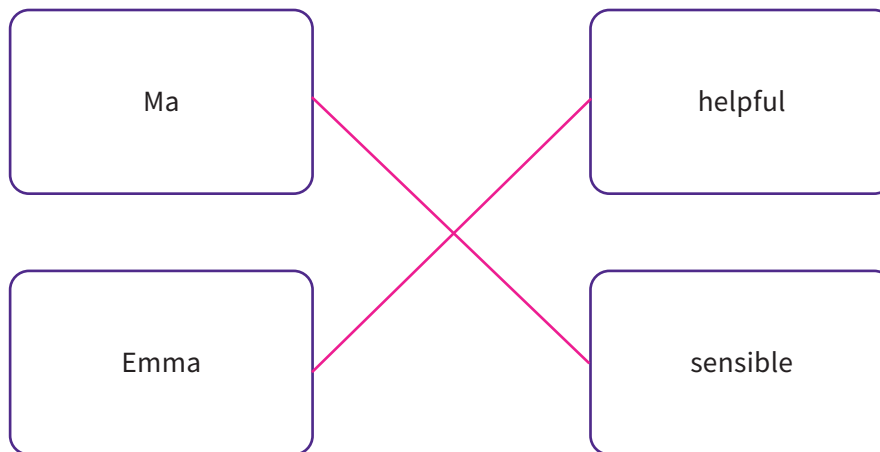
**1. Then we all worked together to build our house / they all worked together to build the house.**

4 Read the extract below:

*'The sod house was nice and cool, protecting us from the hot sun that beat down on the plain. One of my tasks was sweeping the dirt floor every morning. I also had to haul water from the stream and help Ma in her "kitchen garden".'*

*The kitchen garden was a small garden right next to the house. Ma had brought seeds with her for vegetables like potatoes, peas and peppers. We didn't sell anything from the kitchen garden. This was our food, and it had to last us through the winter. Ma was very careful about saving as much as she could.'*

Draw **two** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.



5 Read the second to last paragraph below:

*'The kitchen garden was a small garden right next to the house. Ma had brought seeds with her for vegetables like potatoes, peas and peppers. We didn't sell anything from the kitchen garden. This was our food, and it had to last us through the winter. Ma was very careful about saving as much as she could. It took half a day to travel to the nearest town, and Ma was worried about running out of food during the long winter months ahead.'*

What **impression** do you get of Ma?

Give **one** impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Sensible/cautious/careful** - she saved as much food as she could / she didn't sell any food / Ma was careful about saving as much as she could.

**Hardworking** - she looked after the kitchen garden and grew their food from seeds.

**Concerned/worried/anxious/nervous** - she thought they might run out of food / Ma was worried about running out of food.