



Little House in the Big Woods

I must have been in 3rd grade when I was introduced to the book that would make a difference in my life. My 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Thorpe, would read a few pages of *Little House in the Big Woods* to my class everyday. That book sparked my curiosity in Laura Ingalls Wilder and made me long to know more about her life and how her family, and how others of her time, lived. It also opened my imagination to what living in the 19th century would be like.

Because of my interest in the book, I decided to read the book again for myself. Only then did I find out that there was a whole series of Laura Ingalls Wilder books. And talking to my mom, I realized that Laura once lived less than an hour away from where I was born and where my grandparents lived.

For Christmas that year I got the one gift I wanted most, a new set of the Laura Ingalls Wilder books! I dove into the books right away; I would read throughout the day and dream of a life as Laura at night. In less than a year I finished the entire series and was very sad that there were no more Laura Ingalls Wilder books to read.

That summer I had one of the best vacations of my life. My family took me to where Laura lived and I even got to see a play about her life on the banks of Plum Creek!

One of my best memories that pertains to the books was in the 6th grade when my teacher assigned us to do interactive book reports. Of course, I chose *On the Banks of Plum Creek*. For the assignment, I had to dress up like Laura and tell about her life and experiences. I enjoyed the project so much! Afterwards, I even received compliments from my teacher and other students on how good the report was and how interesting it was to listen to.

Reading is great for the imagination and is a great way to learn about new things. It can even be used to escape the stresses or dullness of life. Check out a book from our library and see where your imagination takes you!

Candice Duerkson

