



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Leah’s Pony” by Elizabeth Friedrich. This Depression-era story tells about Leah, who must make a difficult decision when her family’s farm is devastated by drought and dust storms. You may enjoy discussing the story and doing these activities with your child. Together you can develop and expand your child’s language skills.

More Stories About the Past

Talk with your child about some historical facts he or she learned from “Leah’s Pony.” You may be able to find these historical fiction books in your local library:

- *Dust for Dinner* by Ann Turner, HarperCollins, 1997.
- *Mailing May* by Michael O. Tunnell. Greenwillow, 1997.
- *Going West* by Jean Van Leeuwen. Puffin, 1997.

VOCABULARY

What Word Am I?

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Leah’s Pony”

glistened
bid
clutched

auctioneer
galloped
county

Discuss the different meanings these words have. During the week, you might use the words to play a guessing game with clues like this one: “I’m a word that begins like *glistened* and ends like *listened*. What word am I?”
(glistened)



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Hard Times

Your child can interview you or other family members about disasters such as floods, droughts, or blizzards. Help him or her record answers to questions such as these: *Did your community ever experience a natural disaster? What kind of disaster was it? What do you remember about that time? How did neighbors help one another? How did you and your neighbors help one another? How did you and your neighbors rebuild the community?* Your child may wish to share the interview with classmates after he or she finishes reading “Leah’s Pony.”

