

Hattie's Final Decision



Note: This activity should be done with a partner or in a small group.

Hattie's final decision to leave her homestead and take a job as a chambermaid in Great Falls seems to be quite sensible. She does have a lot of bills to pay and the future looks rather bleak. It is, however, a decision that she does not make easily, and I'm sure she will wonder for the rest of her life whether she made the right choice. Surely during this time, a lot of thoughts and arguments went through her mind — both for staying and for taking the job in Great Falls.

Why I should stay	Why I should go to Great Falls

Using One's Senses in Montana



Hattie Big Sky is a novel filled with sights and sounds (as well as stimulants for the other three senses as well). Hattie endures many memorable experiences during the few months she lived on the homestead: toiling in the hot prairie sun; living through blizzards and hailstorms; gaining valuable experience as a cook; fighting off wild animals (a wolf and wild horses). Look back over the novel and find examples of the five senses as experienced by Hattie. Then, list them in the chart below. You may wish to choose one scene for several examples or include a number of different scenes.

SIGHT	SOUND	TOUCH	TASTE	SMELL

Every Problem Has a Solution (Hopefully)



Hattie experiences a number of serious problems during the novel — some of them are even life-threatening. She certainly does go through a lot for a sixteen year old girl. For some of Hattie’s decisions, she seems to arrive at a most sensible and satisfactory solution; whereas, some of her other choices don’t work out for the best in the end (i.e. would she have been better to sell out to Traff when he first approached her?) Review the events of the novel and chart some of the key problems faced by Hattie along with possible solutions. These solutions can be those determined by Hattie, or ones that you propose instead.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS