

Ticket to Curlew



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Ticket to Curlew



Celia Lottridge

Celia Lottridge has been surrounded by stories all her life. Her father would tell her stories of his childhood adventures as would her aunt. Today she is involved in a storytelling program for parents and their children. She received her university degree in library science and worked as a librarian and teacher-librarian. She even worked in a bookstore! Stories shaped her and helped her create rich stories of her own.

Celia was born in Iowa City, Iowa in 1936. Her family moved around often, so she lived in different states in the U.S.A. At Stanford University she got a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern European History. At Columbia University in New York City she received her Masters of Library Science.

She worked as a librarian in Brooklyn, New York, and in San Diego, California. After that she was a teacher-librarian in New York City and in Providence, Rhode Island.

After visiting her brother in Toronto, Ontario, Celia decided to move there. She took her teaching degree in Toronto, hoping to work as a teacher-librarian. She worked at the Children's Book Store for 13 years. During that time she started writing and doing storytelling. With other storytellers, she helped found Storytellers School of Toronto.

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program, which she helped develop, is a social service program helping parents and children to relate positively to each other through stories, songs and rhymes.

Her writing includes picture books and novels. *Ticket to Curlew* has won the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Award and the Geoffrey Bilson Historical Fiction Award.

Ticket to Curlew



Story Summary

Sam and his father immigrate to the fictional Albertan town of Curlew in 1915, leaving Mama and the younger children behind in Iowa. As Sam and his father begin their new life on the prairies, they have to survive the elements and the isolation with provisions brought from Iowa.

They live in a lean-to shelter until they build their new home. After finding a suitable site for a well and getting it dug, they used pegs and string to make the shape of the house in the prairie sod. With help from their neighbours, they built the house. Meanwhile the schoolhouse was being built to accommodate the new settlers' children. Finally Mama and the younger children, Matt and Josie, arrive. The town had grown since Sam and his father had arrived a few months before.

Learning how to survive on the prairies was crucial. It was easy to get lost on the vast flat land that offered no landmarks. Matt and Sam learn this lesson while out hunting for buffalo skulls. Many episodes of prairie life are described in the story, such as riding a horse to school, trying to find a way to get bread to rise in the cold winter days, helping neighbours to find their lost oxen, teaching an immigrant boy who couldn't go to school how to read, and spending Christmas on the prairies.

Values of sacrifice for the family good are indicated in the story as Sam must let his pony, Prince, fend for itself on the prairies during the winter to save money, and Josie must give up privacy to have a bedroom in the kitchen until the family could afford to build an addition. Readers see how people adapt to change and how they learn to make a new place home.

The story is written as an episodic narrative with many chapters being able to stand up on their own as a tale of prairie life. Strung together by the calendar year, the story begins and ends in the spring.

Information Sheet on Bison and Buffalo

The term "buffalo" is used for an animal in Africa and Asia that looks similar to the North American bison but is not even related to it. The animal that is the largest land mammal in North America is a bison, not a buffalo. Although they look almost the same, there are differences. Buffalo don't have humps on their backs like bison. Buffalo have 13 pairs of ribs while the bison have 14 pair. Bison are related to the mountain goat, musk ox and bighorn sheep.

Bison have split hoofs for feet. Both the male and female have horns on their heads used for defence. A full-grown male bison can grow to be about two metres tall and can weigh between 600 and 1000 kg. The female are smaller. They have long, thick hair on their neck and chin which looks like a beard.

In winter, you might wear a sweater and a coat to keep warm. To help survive the cold winters, bison have two coats of fur. They have a layer of under-fur to trap the warm air close to their bodies and a top coat of thick guard hairs to shield them from wind and water. In the spring as the weather gets warmer, the bison shed their fur. It takes about two months to grow back again.

In spring when there are lots of insects biting, the bison protects itself in two ways. Their tails have a tuft of hair at the end that the bison use for swatting at insects. They will also roll around on the ground, flattening the earth creating a bowl-shaped hole called a "buffalo wallow" that can be up to five metres across. This rubbing and rolling on the ground prevents the insects from biting or laying eggs on them. It also helps loosen fur when they are shedding.

Being out on the open prairie, there is little physical protection from enemies such as grizzlies, mountain lions and wolves who generally only attack the weak and the young. Bison travel in herds of 20 to 1000, as there is safety in numbers. They have a keen sense of sight, smell and hearing so they can be aware of an enemy's approach far in advance, enabling them to run away. They are very fast runners for short distances. They are also good swimmers and mountain climbers.

Bison eat mostly grass, wild oats and rye, lichens, horsetails, vetches, berries and twigs from willows and shrubs. They graze and store the food in part of their stomach. Later they bring up the unchewed food, called cud, and chew it while resting. During the winter when the ground is snow covered, the wide, flat nose of the bison pushes away snow up to one metre deep to get food.

When European settlers came to North America they nearly wiped out the bison by shooting them for sport. National parks were created and laws were passed protecting the bison. Today there are over 50,000 bison in national parks.

Resources: World Book Encyclopedia Information Finder 1997 CD
Dingwall, L. "Bison", Grolier, c1986, 1993 (Nature's Children)

Ticket to Curlew Vocabulary Activities for Chapters 1-6



1. Devise a picture dictionary that would have a picture, a brief definition and a short meaningful sentence using each word listed below.

satchel	adze	coupling	plough	skillet	auger
bandanna	shingle	livery	baggage	sideboard	settee

2. Name something that could be:

- a) perpendicular _____ d) reinforced _____
b) ingenious _____ e) snippy _____
c) stout _____ f) slack _____

3. Write the root word and the past tense of the following:

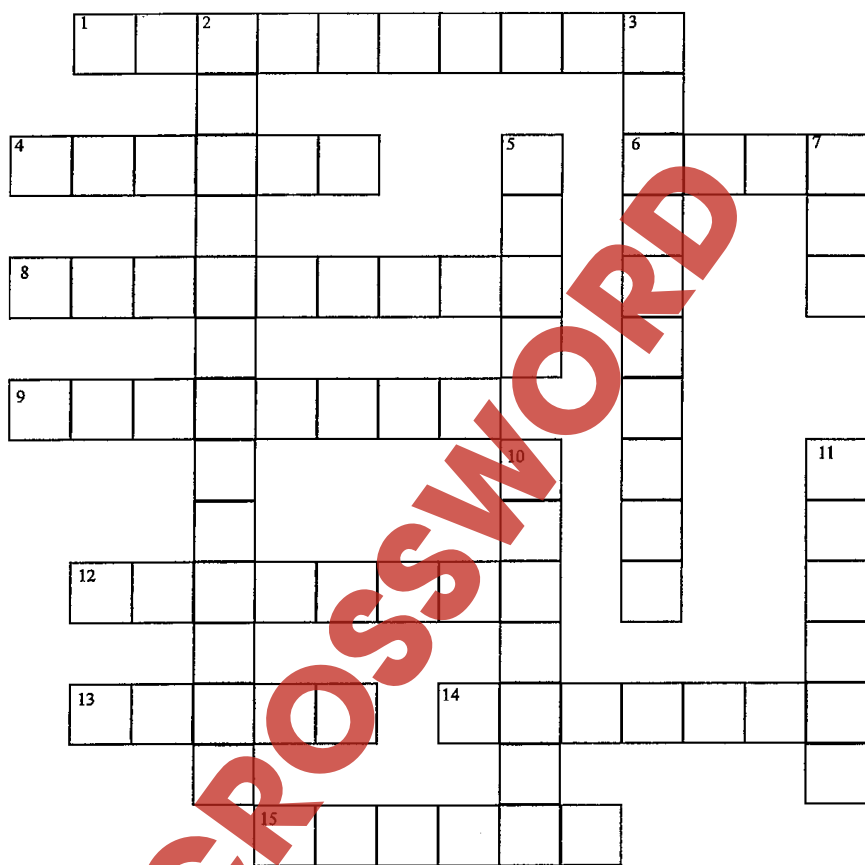
- | | root word | past tense |
|----|-----------------|------------|
| a) | stragging _____ | _____ |
| b) | gawking _____ | _____ |
| c) | jouncing _____ | _____ |
| d) | bustling _____ | _____ |

4. Draw a line to match the following words with their correct definition:

- a) ingenious inborn, natural tendency
b) deed clever, resourceful, inventive
c) sociable to take away smoothness; disturb, irritate or annoy
d) ruffled act, a thing done
e) instinct enjoying the company of others

Ticket to Curlew

Use the vocabulary from Chapters 1-6 to complete this crossword puzzle.



Across

1. tools
4. looked closely
6. grooves in ground
9. head covering
12. device to join parts
13. loosely held
14. staring
15. small sofa

Down

2. at right angles
3. wandering, straying
5. twilight
7. layer of earth
10. luggage
11. tool to turn earth

Ticket to Curlew

Vocabulary Lists for Chapters 7-12



Chapter Seven

tumbleweed pg. 50
mused pg. 56

Chapter Eight

mending pg. 59
amble pg. 61
lope pg. 63

Chapter Nine

mash pg. 66
curried pg. 66
meandered pg. 66
hocks pg. 67
perilous pg. 69
unruly pg. 70
sidled pg. 72
bridle pg. 72

Chapter Ten

meekly pg. 74
temperamental pg. 77

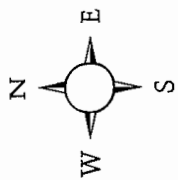
Chapter Eleven

striding pg. 86
shallow pg. 86

Chapter Twelve

reputed pg. 90
nuzzled pg. 91
excursion pg. 91
canter pg. 91
cricked pg. 92
proposition pg. 93
hunker pg. 94

Canada



Ticket to Curlew

Parts of a Horse



Labelling Terms

fetlocks
croup
tail

nostril
hooves
hocks

forelock
mane
withers

Labelling Guidelines

1. All labelling should be done in printing with pencil.
2. All printing should be horizontal and the same size.
3. Lines should be drawn with a ruler.
4. Labelling should be evenly arranged around the diagram.

Ticket to Curlew
Word Search Chapters 1-6

P	N	S	K	I	L	L	E	T	U	O	T	S	P	W
E	E	T	T	E	S	B	Q	Y	R	E	V	I	L	A
I	P	R	O	V	I	S	I	O	N	S	O	D	O	L
A	N	A	P	D	E	M	P	E	E	R	E	D	U	L
N	S	G	L	E	E	G	P	C	H	E	O	E	G	O
N	H	G	E	D	N	L	A	L	D	O	S	C	H	W
A	I	L	H	N	O	D	F	G	E	K	I	R	A	T
D	N	I	C	A	I	C	I	F	G	M	D	O	U	C
N	G	N	T	R	E	O	R	C	U	A	E	F	G	N
A	L	G	A	T	X	U	U	U	U	R	B	N	H	I
B	E	F	S	S	T	P	I	S	O	L	O	I	T	T
G	Z	B	U	S	T	L	I	N	G	L	A	E	I	S
M	D	E	L	B	A	I	C	O	S	J	R	R	L	N
P	A	G	N	I	C	N	U	O	J	V	D	A	Y	I
G	A	W	K	I	N	G	A	U	S	N	I	P	P	Y

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| adze | jouncing | settee |
| baggage | livery | shingle |
| bandanna | parlour | sideboard |
| bustling | peered | skillet |
| coupling | perpendicular | snippy |
| deed | plough | sociable |
| gawking | provisions | sod |
| haughtily | reinforced | stout |
| implements | ruffled | straggling |
| ingenious | ruts | stranded |
| instinct | satchel | wallow |

ANSWER KEY

Ticket to Curlew

Answers to Puzzles Chapters 1-6, pgs. 17, 18

I	M	P	L	E	M	E	N	T	S
E	E	R	E	D	D	R	U	T	S
P	N	G	E	N	I	O	U	S	A
A	N	D	A	N	N	A	B	I	N
C	O	U	P	L	I	N	G	P	L
S	L	A	C	K	G	A	W	K	I
S	E	T	T	E	E				

R	N	S	K	I	L	L	E	T	U	O	T	S	P	W
E	E	T	T	E	S	B	Q	Y	R	E	V	I	L	A
I	P	R	O	V	I	S	I	O	N	S	O	D	O	L
A	N	A	P	D	E	M	P	E	E	R	E	D	U	L
N	S	G	L	E	E	G	P	C	H	E	O	E	G	O
N	H	G	E	D	N	L	A	L	D	O	S	C	H	W
A	I	L	H	N	O	D	F	G	E	K	I	R	A	T
D	N	I	C	A	I	C	I	F	G	M	D	O	U	C
N	G	N	T	R	E	O	R	C	U	A	E	F	G	N
A	L	G	A	T	X	U	U	U	U	R	B	N	H	I
B	E	F	S	S	T	P	I	S	O	L	O	I	T	T
G	Z	B	U	S	T	L	I	N	G	L	A	E	I	S
M	D	E	L	B	A	I	C	O	S	J	R	R	L	N
P	A	G	N	I	C	N	U	O	J	V	D	A	Y	I
G	A	W	K	I	N	G	A	U	S	N	I	P	P	Y

Answers to Puzzles Chapters 7-12, pgs. 26, 27

P	E	X	C	U	R	S	I	O	N	S	H	O	C	K	S	M
R	I	U	R	I	O	P	L	E	U	L	A	L	L	L	M	
L	I	O	S	D	Y	I	O	S	I	U	L	O	P	E	N	
A	M	E	A	N	D	E	R	E	D							
B	L	E	E	K	L	Y										
M	E	E	K	L	Y											

V	X	P	R	D	E	R	E	D	N	A	E	M	S	J		
M	A	S	D	E	K	C	I	R	S	H	T	U	H	J		
V	M	T	G	W	M	J	N	A	G	G	I					
G	B	K	W	X	S	W	G	C	I	N	C	N	I			
H	L	O	I	F	L	C	T	O	L	I	N	T	X			
S	E	M	D	E	M	G	H	T	U	X	H	E	S			
C	X	U	N	B	O	A	E	I	N	T	A	R	R			
Y	R	Z	E	M	M	E	R	I	C	D	F	W	H	O		
E	C	Z	M	H	A	E	F	G	I	J	A	O	S			
L	U	L	S	T	N	S	D	R	S	O	N	G	H			
L	R	E	U	K	U	D	R	O	M	N	G	Y				
L	O	S	T	U	Z	Q	E	R	E	E	F	W	T	A		
V	I	G	E	L	D	I	S	P	N	S	H	Z				
F	R	I	U	Y	Y	B	E	H	W	M	H	D	X	I		
M	E	E	K	L	Y	Q	F	Q	C	U	L	U	F	E		

Answers to Puzzles Chapters 13-18, pgs. 33, 34

S	E	N	T	R	I	E	S									
W	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D								
H	C	L	A	M	O	U	R	I	N	G	N	I	C	K	E	R
U	M	B	A	B	U	N	D	A	N	C	E	R	O	S		
L	E	N	T	I	C	E	D	P	A	P	E	R				
H	A	V	E	N												
W	L	O	O	M	Y											

N	H	H	D	E	C	I	T	N	E	V	A	H	E			
I	O	E	H	Y	Q	R	A	N	U	O	U	T	D			
D	M	I	L	A	Q	S	E	N	T	R	I	E	S			
U	V	Z	E	T	E	S	W	A	K	O	I	N	K			
G	F	E	L	M	O	U	R	I	N	G	S	D				
A	H	Y	H	D	E	U	P	N	Y	K	D	C	R			
D	F	R	E	S	A	H	E	D	M	S	A	Q	J			
U	Z	O	K	E	X	L	O	B	A	O	J	M	U			
S	E	B	C	E	U	Q	X	I	S	B	N	O	Y	Q		
V	D	W	K	K	T	V	W	I	K	C	L	J				
J	D	G	C	C	H	N	S	M	X	T	M	E	S			
U	C	C	X	I	E	K	J	F	U	M	Z	M				
C	F	I	Q	W	W	R	E	U	I	X	K	X	Y			
M	J	Z	V	Z	L	U	N	I	N	T	X	D	W	Y		