

Name: _____

Frontier Life

by Cindy Breedlove

My stockings have a hole in them,
I'm learning how to darn.
Which means that I am mending them
With needle and some yarn.

Ma says my dress is getting short,
We must let out the hem.
My only shoes have come apart,
And Pa is patching them.



I help my Pa by milking Bess
And stake her out each day.
I help my Ma by hanging clothes
And watching Sissy play.

I go to bed so tired,
And get up before the sun.
There's always work that's waiting.
It never gets all done.

But Ma has made Pa promise
To have a family rule.
If there's a teacher hired,
I get to go to school!

Name: _____

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1. Match each word from the poem to the correct definition.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| _____ stockings | a. thick thread made of cotton or wool |
| _____ darn | b. to fix by sewing |
| _____ hem | c. edge on a piece of cloth or clothes |
| _____ yarn | d. coverings for the foot |

2. What is



c. To teach us unusual words from long ago

3. Who is Bess?

4. Why can't the girl in this poem go to school?

5. Why do you think Ma wants her daughter to go to school?

ANSWER KEY

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1. Match each word from the poem to the correct definition.

d stockings

a. thick thread made of cotton or wool

b darn

b. to fix by sewing

c hem

c. edge on a piece of cloth or clothes

a yarn

d. coverings for the foot

2. What is

c
b
c
a.



3. Who is Bess?

Bess is the family's cow.

4. Why can't the girl in this poem go to school?

The girl in the poem cannot go to school because there is no teacher.

5. Why do you think Ma wants her daughter to go to school?

Answers may vary. Possible answer: Ma wants her daughter to have a better life.