

The First Four Years

By Laura Ingalls Wilder

Q and A Discussion Guide

The Third Year

1	What did Almanzo buy for cooking and warming the house, and why?	Almanzo bought a new stove. It would use less coal, all the cooking and baking could be done with it, and the floor needed to be warm for Rose.
2	What was the third Christmas like?	Manly wore his new wool undershirt, and they went to Christmas with the home folks. There was snow and finding the way home was slow and difficult.
3	What was the third winter like?	Cold, but no big storms. They had a visitor every Sunday.
4	Why did Ma take Rose for awhile?	Laura caught a dangerous case of Diphtheria. Rose did not catch it.
5	When Manly caught Diphtheria, who cared for Laura and Manly?	Almanzo's brother, Royal (and his care wasn't great).
6	When Almanzo worked too hard and was still sick, what happened?	Almanzo had a stroke from overexertion.
7	Why did they sell the homestead? How much money did they get?	The doctor bills were high and Almanzo could not work all the land. \$200
8	How did the planting and spring go?	Rains came, wheat and oats grew well, three new little calves were born and two young colts, and Laura had to help Almanzo often
9	What did Laura and Almanzo do for fun?	They went riding at night after Rose was asleep.
10	Why did Mr. Whitehead sell his sheep at a low price?	He was a Republican and was sure the Democrats would win at the election and the sheep would be worth nothing.

11	Why did Peter move in?	Peter was going to shepherd the sheep. He lived with Laura and Almanzo to do so.
12	What ruined the wheat the third summer?	Hot, dry winds that blew for three days.
13	What was their only crop?	The hay on the school section first come, first served, and they were first.