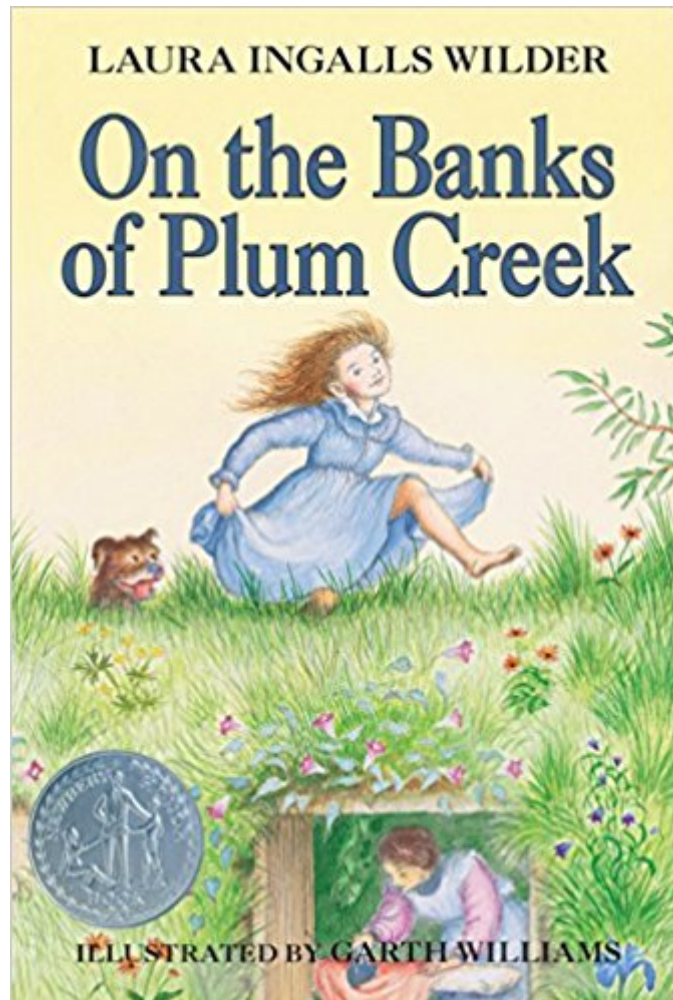




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# On The Banks Of Plum Creek (Little House, No 4)



## Synopsis

Based on the real-life adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder, *On the Banks of Plum Creek* is the Newbery Honor-winning fourth book in the Little House series, which has captivated generations of readers. This edition features the classic black-and-white artwork from Garth Williams. The adventures of Laura Ingalls and her family continue as they leave their little house on the prairie and travel in their covered wagon to Minnesota. They settle into a house made of sod on the banks of beautiful Plum Creek. Soon Pa builds them a sturdier house, with real glass windows and a hinged door. Laura and Mary go to school, help with the chores around the house, and fish in the creek. As Pa's fiddle lulls them all to sleep at the end of the day, But then disaster strikes—on top of a terrible blizzard, a grasshopper infestation devours their wheat crop. Now the family must work harder than ever to overcome these challenges. The nine books in the timeless Little House series tell the story of Laura's real childhood as an American pioneer, and are cherished by readers of all generations. They offer a unique glimpse into life on the American frontier, and tell the heartwarming, unforgettable story of a loving family sticking together through thick and thin.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 640 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The adventures of Laura Ingalls and her family continue as they leave their little house on the prairie

and travel in their covered wagon to Minnesota. Here they settle in a little house made of sod beside the banks of beautiful Plum Creek. Soon Pa builds a wonderful new little house with real glass windows and a hinged door. Laura and her sister Mary go to school, help with the chores, and fish in the creek. At night everyone listens to the merry music of Pa's fiddle. Misfortunes come in the form of a grasshopper plague and a terrible blizzard, but the pioneer family works hard together to overcome these troubles. And so continues Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved story of a pioneer girl and her family. The nine Little House books have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier past and a heartwarming, unforgettable story.

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957) was born in a log cabin in the Wisconsin woods. With her family, she pioneered throughout America's heartland during the 1870s and 1880s, finally settling in Dakota Territory. She married Almanzo Wilder in 1885; their only daughter, Rose, was born the following year. The Wilders moved to Rocky Ridge Farm at Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894, where they established a permanent home. After years of farming, Laura wrote the first of her beloved Little House books in 1932. The nine Little House books are international classics. Her writings live on into the twenty-first century as America's quintessential pioneer story. Garth Williams's classic illustrations for the Little House books caused Laura to remark that she "and her folks live again in these pictures." Garth Williams also illustrated Charlotte's Web, Stuart Little, and almost one hundred other books.

Not my most favorite of her books, it seems to be lacking the feel of the author that is shown in the others in the series. However, if you are reading the series, you can't skip this one!

While on a road trip with my mother, sister, and niece to various Ingalls' family sites in the midwest, we listened to most of the Little House books on CD. We loved them. We thought my niece might balk a bit at not listening to music, but we were all drawn in to the stories and the books provided hours of entertainment. Cherry Jones is an excellent narrator and does a pitch perfect job. I wish these were available via Audible, too, so I didn't have to deal with the physical media.

This is the fifth of nine books in the "Little House" historical fiction series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The book starts with the news, in the first chapter, that Laura's older sister Mary has gone blind. The information is related matter-of-factly, "Her blue eyes were still beautiful, but they did not know what was before them, and Mary herself could never look through them again to tell Laura what she was

thinking without saying a word." (p. 2) Laura has to become Mary's eyes and see for her, describing in detail what she is seeing so that Mary, too, can "see." The perceptive reader understands how central this experience, this role, was in shaping the future author of this series of books which are enduring across generations of readers, young and old. Much later in the book, in the chapter, "On the Pilgrim Way," a much beloved, Reverend Alden is visiting, passing through with a very young (boy preacher) Reverend Stuart, and has just said to Ma, "I am sorry indeed, Sister Ingalls, to see the affliction that has come to Mary." The reply comes, "Yes, Brother Alden," Ma answered sadly, "Sometimes it is hard to be resigned to God's will. We all had the scarlet fever in our place on Plum Creek, and for a while it was hard to get along. But I'm thankful that all the children were spared to us. Mary is a great comfort to me, Brother Alden. She has never once repined." Brother Alden extends encouragement and comfort, "Mary is a rare soul, and a lesson to all of us... We must remember that whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and a brave spirit will turn all our afflictions to good. I don't know whether you and Brother Ingalls know that there are colleges for the blind. There is one in Iowa." The account continues, "Ma took tight hold of the edge of the dishpan. Her face startled Laura. Her gentle voice sounded choked and hungry. She asked, 'How much does it cost?'" In this book, perhaps more than the other books in the series, the author develops the subtleties of what the Ingalls family is all about, the close interrelationships of its members, their self-sacrificing devotion to one another. With the news that there are colleges for the blind, Laura determines to work hard so that the family can afford to send Mary to one, a theme that carries throughout other books in the series. The author does a nice job of developing the central characters, especially Mary, whose blindness does not in any manner stop her from being a valuable, contributing member of the family. For example, it is Mary who warms and entertains baby Grace on her lap in the rocking chair by the fire, a repeated sweet scene. Mary is mentally sharp and keeps the free-spirited, free-wheeling Laura on her toes, particularly when it comes to being truthful and describing accurately what she (Laura) is seeing. When Laura tells her the road in front of them has disappeared, Mary objects, saying that is impossible. Laura struggles to explain. In the chapter, "The Shanty on the Claim," Laura describes the shanty, which is papered with black tar paper fastened with yellow lath strips as "tiger-striped." Mary corrects her and points out that tigers are yellow with black stripes. Laura gets her first glimpse of her future husband Almanzo Wilder, who along with his older brother Royal, passes the Ingalls family, the Wilder boys standing in a wagon, driving a beautiful, matched set of horses. Laura's attention is consumed completely by the beautiful horses, and she seems to scarcely notice the young men. We cover this series, as well as the prequel series (The Martha Years, The Charlotte Years, The Caroline Years) and the sequel series

(The Rose Years) in our home school curriculum with my grandchildren, who are currently 11, 8 and 6. My grandson enjoys the books at least as much as my granddaughters.

great story and the CD works perfectly

the best books for girls

Cherry Jones once again brings the characters from Laura's story to life in a unique way. I look for excuses to travel in my car just to be able to listen to another segment of the story! I have read all the books in the series, but I am discovering many aspects for the first time, simply by having them read aloud to me with such care. I bought the first set of CDs to try it out - then I couldn't get the rest of them quickly enough to keep up with my renewed enthusiasm for the stories. My only regret is that one day, I WILL reach the end of my supply! Of course, I can wait a little while & then start listening all over again - but at the moment I am relishing the freshness that comes with each CD. They are, indeed, American classics - but even as an Australian, I see the universality of the subject material, especially as read (& sung) by Cherry Jones. These stories are timeless and profound. My admiration for the family of Charles & Caroline Ingalls grows daily. They are absolutely still alive in these recordings - the voice, the music, the story. We get to know Laura and her family & friends a little better. I will probably always re-read the books with the voice of Cherry Jones in my head - this is a good thing! Thank You!

Got these for my 9 year old daughter and they are great looking books. Quality stock and the pictures are very nice. Only quibble is that the cardboard case was already damaged on delivery (due to the quality paper stock, these books are heavier than similar sized paperbacks, but I guess the case wasn't any stronger). Wasn't a big deal for us as we haven't ever been able to keep one of those cased intact for long anyway. Plus, there are a few more book in the series that aren't included with the set so the case would eventually be left begined anyway. That being said, if this is important to you, may be something to consider. Although, if requested, would probably send a replacement, we just didn't bother.

I was talking to my daughter and found out she had never read The Little House books. I just can't live in a world where they haven't read it. So I bought this for her to read to my granddaughter. This is not the feel good everything works out by the end of the TV show read. It is a story of hardship and

privation. An in depth look and our brave ancestors and what they had to endure to realize their dreams. Of course there is love and family and happiness too. The accounts of their daily lives are amazing.

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