

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *LAURA INGALLS WILDER* (15 min. total)

Show & Theater Company: (less than 1 min.)

- ArtsPower's Production of *Laura Ingalls Wilder* (ArtsPower is from New Jersey)

Art Form: (1-2 min.)

- Musical theater
 - ? Musical theater is a special kind of play. What is musical theater? (a play with songs)

Context: (3-5 min.)

- Laura Ingalls Wilder was a read person! She was born in 1867 and loved to read and travel. She wrote the *Little House on the Prairie* books based on her own life.
- There was also a television show based on the books that was on the air for eight seasons in the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- The story takes place in the late-1800s.
 - ? How long ago was that?
 - ? What types of technology do we have that wasn't around in the 1800s?
- Adventure and curiosity drive the Ingalls Family westward as they search for a place to live across the prairie. [Show states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska & Kansas on U.S. Map—or have a student point them out.]

Main concepts/characters: (3 min.)

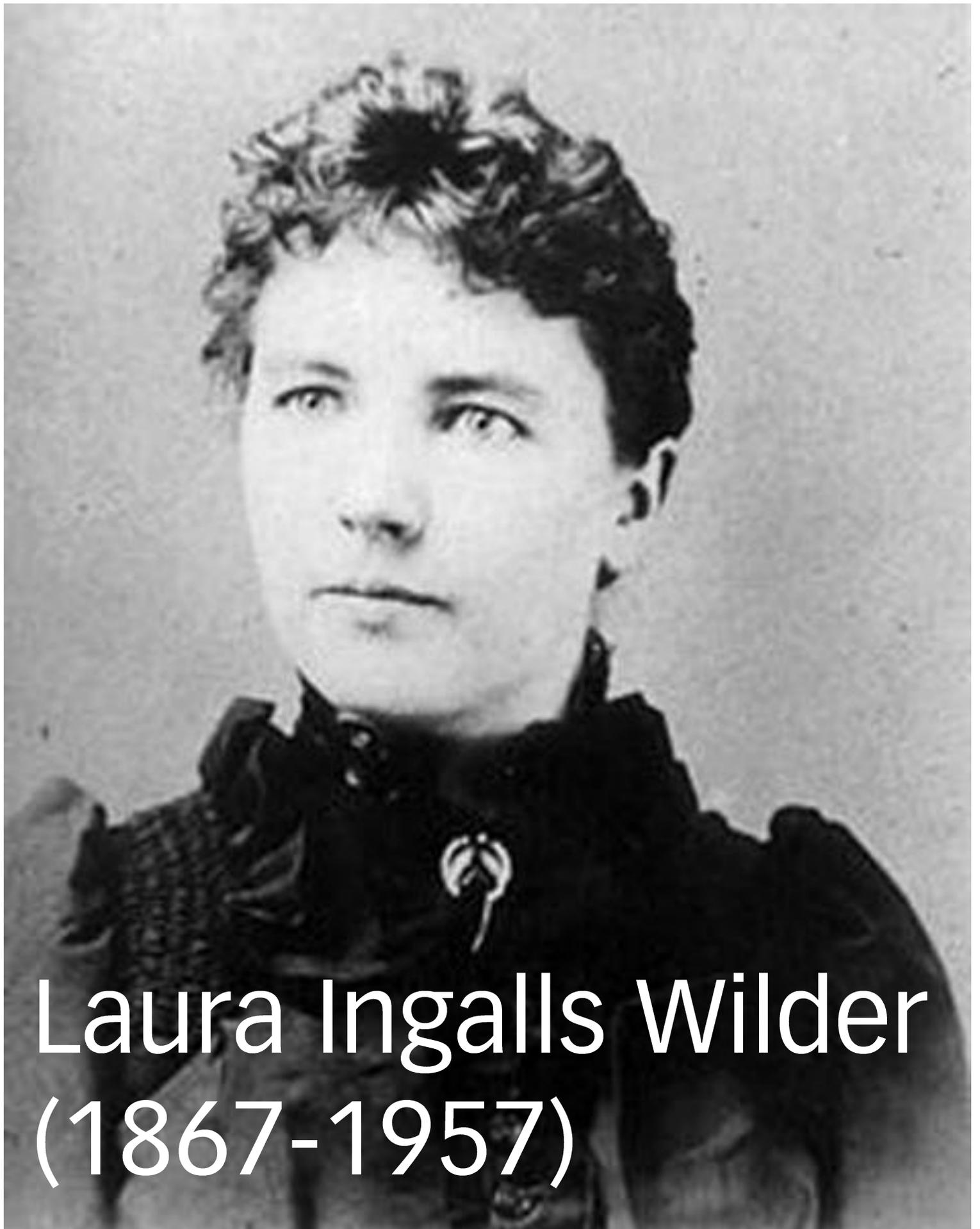
- Main Characters:
 - Laura Ingalls
 - Charles Ingalls, Laura's "Pa"
 - Caroline Ingalls, Laura's "Ma"
 - Mary Ingalls, Laura's sister
 - Nellie Owens, a girl in town
- Main concepts:
 - Adventure, curiosity
 - Families overcoming struggles
 - Finding one's special talent – Laura's is reading and writing!
 - ? Does anyone in this class have a special talent?

Special things to look for: (3 min.)

- How is the show the same as the books and how is it different?
- ? There is a special name for the clothing actors wear on stage; who knows what that is? (costume)
 - Costumes provide clues about the characters on stage, such as that character's age, time in history, job, social status, and/or attitude.
- The actress who plays Mary also plays Nellie.
 - ? How can an actor play more than one character? What "tools" would they use, besides their costumes? (They will use their bodies, their voices, costumes, and they will depend on your imaginations!!)

Theater Etiquette: (2-3 min.)

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones.
 - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater
 - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.



Laura Ingalls Wilder
(1867-1957)



Washington

Oregon

Idaho

Nevada

California

Arizona

Alaska

Montana

Wyoming

Utah

New Mexico

Hawaii

North Dakota

South Dakota

Colorado

Kansas

Oklahoma

Texas

Minnesota

Wisconsin

Iowa

Missouri

Louisiana

Illinois

Indiana

Kentucky

Tennessee

Mississippi

Alabama

Georgia

Michigan

Ohio

Virginia

North Carolina

South Carolina

New Hampshire

Vermont

Massachusetts

Maine

New York

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Connecticut

New Jersey

Delaware

Maryland

West Virginia

Florida



Main cast of *Little House on the Prairie* television series (1974–1982)

Laura Ingalls Wilder

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE



PICTURES BY GARDH WILLIAMS