

January 7, 2014

Dear Ms. Wilder,
I didn't have a choice about reading Farmer Boy. It was assigned in the third grade last year. I was not excited about reading it at first because it was based in the olden days and I thought it would be boring. Boy, was I wrong! Farmer Boy turned out to be an excellent book because I learned so much that I never knew. It was exciting because something was always going on. That is life on a farm.

I know Farmer Boy influenced me because it encouraged me to try to do things without electronics. Every time I want to know something I go to my computer and

Google what I want to know. Almanzo and his family couldn't do that. They had to use information they learned over time by using their brains and their hands, not computers. They had to keep trying different things until they found something that worked. When I am building in my fort I think of Almanzo and how, in some ways he might have been smarter than me. I wonder what life would be like if my dad quit his job and we had no electricity or running water. I wonder if we could live. Life on a farm includes long days of hard work. There were no Wal-marts or Targets to go to if you needed food or clothing. Families stuck together, and kids worked hard with their families because that's what they needed to do to survive.

After reading Farmer Boy, I realized that if I misbehaved, I could get whipped! That's a lot different from today when you lose some recess.

Farmer Boy made me appreciate
the blessings that we have that
make life easier, and it made
me appreciate my teacher who
can't whip me even when I
misbehave!

Sincerely,
Peter J. Baumer