

Directions

304035P

Read this story. Then answer questions 44 and 45.

Having lived in Iowa all her life, Hattie has recently moved to her uncle's farmland in Montana in 1918.

Excerpt from *Hattie Big Sky*

by Kirby Larson

1 “Hey there, neighbor!” Rooster Jim waved and, with a groan, straightened himself to a stand from the patch of garden he was weeding. “Out for a Sunday stroll?” He chuckled at this, seeing as it was Wednesday.

2 “I finished my fence,” I said. There should be trumpets to herald the news. “Thought I’d celebrate with a walk. Being as it’s getting so warm, I thought you’d be missing your hat.” I handed it to him.

3 He took it from me and settled it just so on his head. “I wondered what happened to it after my run-in with that monster machine.” He chuckled, then sniffed the air. “My, my. This spring breeze is so rich it smells like fresh-baked bread.”

4 I held out the package I’d been carrying. “I think I’m getting the hang of this,” I said. “You can actually eat this loaf without soaking it in water first.”

5 Rooster laughed. “Bread that delicious deserves a trade,” he said.

6 “Oh, no need,” I assured him.

7 “Seems to me I’ve been by the Hattie Brooks place a time or two and heard a most peculiar sound,” he said.

8 “You have? What?”

9 “Most fearful sound.” He shook his head. “The sound of a farm without any hens.”

10 “Well, I plan on getting some after harvest.”

11 “That’s a long summer without fresh eggs.” He motioned me to follow him. Over in his hen yard, he pointed out three scraggly hens. “Them’s Martha, Rose, and June. They’ve got some setting left in them, and I need to thin out the flock. You interested in giving them a new home? Course,

Albert”—here he pointed to a handsome white leghorn rooster—“is part of the package, too.”

12 No more doling out eggs as if they were pearls! I could taste fried eggs for breakfast. Fried chicken for supper. Spice cake with an egg for richness. “Oh, yes.”

13 Rooster Jim expertly rounded up the three ladies and their escort. He slipped all four of them, squawking and screeching, into a burlap sack. “Can you manage this?” he asked.

14 “I sure hope so.” The bag twisted and jerked as if it was full of snakes.

15 “Them’s good girls. They’ll settle soon.” He picked up his hat from where it had fallen during the chicken roundup.

16 I wobbled home with my prize. Mr. Whiskers meowed his approval when I set down the bag. “Don’t you even think about it,” I warned. He would be the least of my troubles. I needed to save my cluckers from coyotes and chicken hawks. Uncle Chester’s efforts had included a chicken coop, but it wasn’t fenced. I had to laugh. So much for thinking I was done fencing!

17 I turned my new family loose in the house and shut the door quick. I’d have to deal with their mess later. For now, I needed to keep them safe while I secured the chicken yard. A roll of chicken wire was the last item in Uncle Chester’s stock of supplies stored in the barn. I said a prayer that it was paid for. My budget couldn’t afford any more surprises.

18 Hours of practice had turned me into a proficient but slow fence builder. This was a little more challenging because I had to dig down to bury the bottom of the chicken wire to keep out hungry diggers like skunks and such. By working straight through supper and then by lamplight, I was able to enclose the whole yard. My fingers were raw and blistered, but I couldn’t stop yet to tend them. I tidied up the chicken coop and got it ready for its new residents.

19 My stomach complained for its supper and my back cried out for its bed, but I finally had a suitable castle for my winged herd. With an indignant squawk, Rose led the way into their new domicile, tempted by a trail of grain. Martha, June, and Albert followed suit. I slipped in an old pan for their water trough and fastened the chicken coop door closed.

20 Too tired to fuss with supper, I ate a bowl of graveyard stew, breaking up chunks of bread and covering them with warm milk and molasses.

44

In “Excerpt from *Hattie Big Sky*,” what do paragraphs 18 and 19 show about Hattie? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Primary CCLS: RL.4.3:

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions).

Secondary CCLS: L.4.1 and L.4.2

Statewide Average Points Earned: 1.35 out of 2

See Short-Response (2-point) Holistic Rubric and the full-credit sample student response.

45

How are the chickens presented as characters in “Excerpt from *Hattie Big Sky*”? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Primary CCLS: RL.4.3:

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions).

Secondary CCLS: L.4.1 and L.4.2

Statewide Average Points Earned: 0.73 out of 2

See Short-Response (2-point) Holistic Rubric and the full-credit sample student response.

Directions

304042P

Read this story. Then answer questions 46 and 47.

Lily, her Great Aunt Nell, who is visiting from India, and her father become stuck on the road when their horse gets a nail in its hoof. Father needs to take the horse home, so Mr. Babcock lends Lily and Nell a bull to get their buggy back because his horse is very old. In the process, Nell strikes a bargain.

Excerpt from *If Wishes Were Horses*

by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

- 1 “I’ll make a deal with you,” Aunt Nell said, her voice chill as a January night. “If I do get the bull hitched up and home, you’ll let me borrow your automobile one day next week.”
- 2 “If you don’t take the cake,” Mr. Babcock said and grinned confidently. “Lady, if you can get him hitched up, you can *have* my automobile!”
- 3 I never could figure out how Aunt Nell did it. She climbed over the fence and started toward him. The bull had his head down, watching her, and he was pawing the ground something fierce. I would have run for the hills but not Aunt Nell. She started talking to him, low. I couldn’t make out what she was saying, but the bull’s ears twitched like he was listening to her. When she got close enough, she touched his head, still whispering to him, and I wondered if she put some kind of spell on him because, even though he snorted and kicked, he let Aunt Nell lead him out of the pasture and hitch him up to the buggy. You could have stored butternuts in Mr. Babcock’s mouth, it was hanging open so.
- 4 Keeping a tight hold on the reins, Aunt Nell climbed into the buggy.
- 5 “I guess we’re about set,” she said. “Mr. Babcock, would you care to ride with us?”
- 6 Mr. Babcock shook his head slowly.
- 7 “I wouldn’t set foot in that buggy for a thousand dollars,” he said.

8 I didn't want to set foot in that buggy, either. I was sure Aunt Nell and I were riding to our deaths, but I climbed in, my legs shaking, and sat beside her.

9 "Bring the car by the Randall's place first thing on Monday morning," Aunt Nell said. "We'll drop you off back here before we get on our way."

10 At the mention of his car, and realizing that it was no longer his because of his rash promise, Mr. Babcock's face drained of color. Aunt Nell let him suffer for a few moments while she struggled to control the bull, then she spoke.

11 "Don't worry, Mr. Babcock, I'm only going to borrow your automobile for Monday. But next time, maybe you'll take care not to underestimate the capabilities of a woman."

12 Mr. Babcock, relief flooding his face ruddy again, nodded meekly. And with that, Aunt Nell let the bull run. I didn't have time to ask why she needed his car.

13 I grabbed the dashboard and held on for all I was worth. We careened down hills and around corners, narrowly missing trees and rocks. A few times I felt all four wheels leave the ground. I prayed we wouldn't meet anyone; it'd be a shame to cause someone else's death besides our own.

14 Aunt Nell seemed to be having the time of her life. She had her feet braced, and the muscles in her arms bulged as she pulled with all her strength, but I couldn't see that she was slowing that bull down one iota. Her hair had come loose from its bun, and I imagined her as one of those larger-than-life Greek or Roman goddesses. She could be Europa, who'd tamed a white bull and ridden him to the island of Crete. The only trouble was that Mr. Babcock's bull wasn't white, and most of those mythological heroes ended up dead.

15 "Aunt Nell, is he running away?" I shouted.

16 "Why, I suppose he is," Aunt Nell said as we bounced over ruts. "At least he's running in the right direction. We'll be home in no time flat."

17 *If we lived*, I thought.

18 We careened into the yard on two wheels. Grandma, Mama, and Emily heard the commotion and tumbled onto the porch. They all stared, mouths open, at the sight of us.

19 “Good gracious!” Grandma said when she’d found her voice. “I’ve never seen the like. Sister, I hope you haven’t had trouble.”

20 Aunt Nell looked at me, and we both laughed. I felt giddy with relief, so certain had I been that we would be killed. I was even glad to see Emily.

21 “Why, no sister,” Aunt Nell said. “We haven’t had a bit of trouble. We’ve seen a little of the countryside, and I have managed to borrow a car to take the girls to the circus. Other than that, it’s been an uneventful morning.”

22 And that is how I came to own a horse.

46

How does Lily feel about Aunt Nell in “Excerpt from *If Wishes Were Horses*”? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Primary CCLS: RL.4.3:

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions).

Secondary CCLS: L.4.1 and L.4.2

Statewide Average Points Earned: 1.17 out of 2

See Short-Response (2-point) Holistic Rubric and the full-credit sample student response.

47

In “Excerpt from *Hattie Big Sky*” and “Excerpt from *If Wishes Were Horses*,” both Hattie and Aunt Nell accept challenges that benefit them in some way. What challenges do Hattie and Aunt Nell accept? How do the stories show the benefits of accepting these challenges? Use details from **both** stories to support your response.

In your response, be sure to

- describe the challenges that Hattie and Aunt Nell accept
- explain the benefits of accepting these challenges in both stories
- use details from **both** stories to support your response
