

Grade 3 Narrative

Lisa and the Pigpen

Peter lived in a small farming town with his mama, papa, brothers, and sisters. Everyone had chores. Peter's job was to look after his youngest sister Lisa. Lisa was three years old and very curious. She liked to wander out of the house and play outside.

One day Peter and Lisa were playing hide-and-seek in the house, and the game turned into a chase.

Crash! Bang! Peter tripped and landed in the clothes basket on the kitchen floor.

Lisa fell on the floor beside him and laughed. "Do it again," begged Lisa.

"Oh, no," said Mama. "You two go outside with your chasing and stay out of my way. Don't get into trouble."

The children scampered out the door into the sunshine. At that moment, Dr. Brown was leading a pig down the road. Dr. Brown was the town's veterinarian. He had been taking care of Ms. Smith's pig since it was born. The piglet had been small and weak. Now he was going to her house to show her how big and healthy the pig had grown. Lisa laughed and ran to catch up to Dr. Brown and the pig. Peter yelled after her.

"Where are you going?" Lisa asked Dr. Brown.

Dr. Brown turned around and saw the little girl following him. "I am going to show my friend, Ms. Smith, how big her pig has grown."

"I'm going, too," said Lisa. She marched right along with Dr. Brown.

"Okay, then I'm going, too," Peter sighed, and followed behind them.

When they arrived at Ms. Smith's house, Dr. Brown put the pig in the pigpen at the back of the house. Lisa followed Dr. Brown and the pig. When she saw the other pigs, she squealed with delight. The pigs squealed and oinked.

"Don't go in the pigpen, children," Dr. Brown said, "I don't want you to get dirty." Then he went in the house to visit Ms. Smith.

Lisa wanted to play with the pigs. She started across the pen to pet the pigs. On her way, she slipped in the mud and fell in a puddle. Lisa was wet from her head to her toes with black, dirty pigpen water. She splashed with her hands and kicked her feet, spreading mud all over her clothes. "I'm a pig! I'm a pig!" she said laughing.

“Come out of there right now, Lisa!” screamed Peter.

At that moment, Dr. Brown and Ms. Smith came rushing outside. They heard the children shouting and the pigs squealing.

“Someone is in the pigpen with the pigs!” Ms. Smith exclaimed.

They went to the back of the house and found Lisa splashing in the water.

Peter was shouting at Lisa. “Lisa! Look at you! What will Mama say? You get out of there now!”

“I’m a pig!” said Lisa. She refused to come out of the pigpen.

Peter crawled through the fence to get a hold of Lisa. Lisa ran from him. Peter slipped and fell in the black, dirty pigpen puddle.

“Oh, no! Now we’re both wet and dirty and smell like a pigpen!” Peter said.

Peter struggled through the mud, and finally reached Lisa. He took Lisa’s arm and pulled her out of the pigpen. As they walked home, Peter tightly held Lisa’s hand. He wasn’t going to let her run away again! Peter’s face was long and sad. He wondered what Mama would say when she saw how dirty they were. When they walked in the house, Mama looked up from her laundry. Her eyes grew large and her mouth opened wide. Then she laughed.

“You look and smell like two little pigs. Take off your dirty clothes. I have just enough water to wash the two of you. Your clothes are another matter. I will take care of those later.”

When the children were clean, Mama put Lisa in her bed for a nap. Peter went outside to sit and think. How was he going to keep Lisa out of trouble? His chore of looking after his little sister was going to be difficult.

Grade 3 Informational

Native American Clothing in Nebraska

Long ago, Native Americans made their own clothing. They used things they found in nature. Most materials used to make clothing came from animals. Animal skins, fur, and feathers were used.

Different Kinds of Clothing

Clothing protects people and keeps them warm. Native Americans wore different kinds of clothing, depending upon where they lived. Native Americans who lived in a cold climate wore heavy clothing.

Native Americans who lived in different places used different materials for their clothing. Their choices depended on the plants and animals in their area. Some groups of Native Americans also had their own styles of clothing.

Native Americans in Nebraska

Long ago, many Native American groups lived on the land that is now Nebraska. These groups wore similar kinds of clothing. They used many of the same materials to make clothes. Animal skins, especially buckskin, were commonly used. Buckskin is the skin of a deer, and it is soft and durable. Buckskin clothing protected people from sharp thorns.

Native American women wore a long buckskin shirt. In cold weather, women wore leggings. Men wore a loincloth. The loincloth was stretched between the legs. It was tucked into a belt in the front and back. Belts made from rawhide held clothing in place. In winter, men and women wore robes made from buffalo hides that were heavy and very warm. Native Americans wore shoes called moccasins. Moccasins were made from buffalo hide, so they could last a long time.

How Buckskin Clothing was Made

Native Americans cleaned and scraped animal skins to soften them. They dried the skins over a fire to make them a tan color. Then, pieces of buckskin were cut to the right size and shape. Rawhide was used to stitch the pieces together. Each article of clothing took time and skill to make. One family member to another taught the skill of making clothes.

Paints were used to decorate clothing. Paints were made from clay and juices of berries or other fruits. Dyed porcupine quills could be added as decorations. The quills were sharp and had a hook on one end to keep them in place. They could be poked into the buckskin to form a pattern.

Clothing for Special Occasions

For some events, people wore special clothes. Decorations were meaningful. A shirt decorated with porcupine quills meant that the wearer was a respected person. A necklace made from bear claws meant that the wearer was a great hunter. A headdress made from eagle feathers meant that the wearer was a chief.