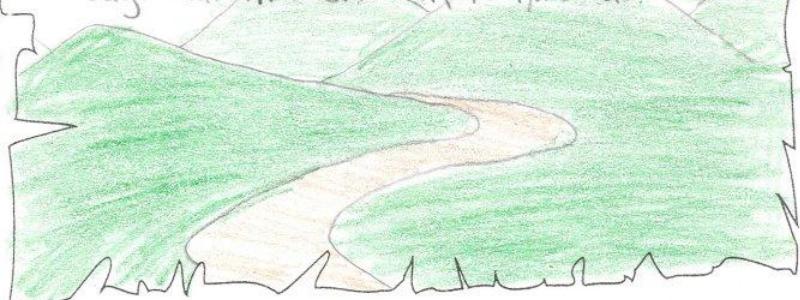


①

Hi! My name is Eliza Bennet, I'm ten. This here is my story. Ma said that James and I should have journals so that we can remember all the fun and hardships on the trail. Oh! Did I mention that we're goin' on the Oregon Trail? Well I suppose now I did. Pa says that we're goin' because each person over 21 gets 320 acres of free land each! Aunt Sandy says that that adds up to 1,280 acres!



②



I hear that the trail is 2,000 miles long! Pa keeps on sayin' that we'll only be on the trail for 6 ½ months. Pa's a nice man, he's strong and has a twinkle in his bright blue eyes. He works out in the fields, as a farmer. Ma has long brown hair that flows down her back like the waves on the ocean. She has a soft voice and beautiful eyes. My brother's name is James. He has blue eyes like Pa's and curly brown hair. I on the other hand have bright, green eyes, as Ma says, and short black hair.

My aunt, Sandy is comin' with us. She has a baby named Lucy. Lucy is a cute little blond girl with curls as bouncy as a rabbit. Aunt Sandy has light brown hair and her husband, that died last year had blond hair.

James



Hunt  
Sandy



Ma



Pa



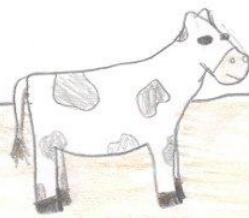
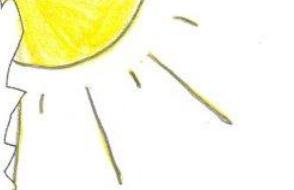
(3)

Our wagon is four ft. by ten ft. and it's two feet tall. It has a nice, white, canvas top and is made of strong wood. The wheels are smaller in the front than in the back, so that we can make the turns really smooth. It cost us \$85! We have three oxen to pull it. They're strong and have big black eyes.



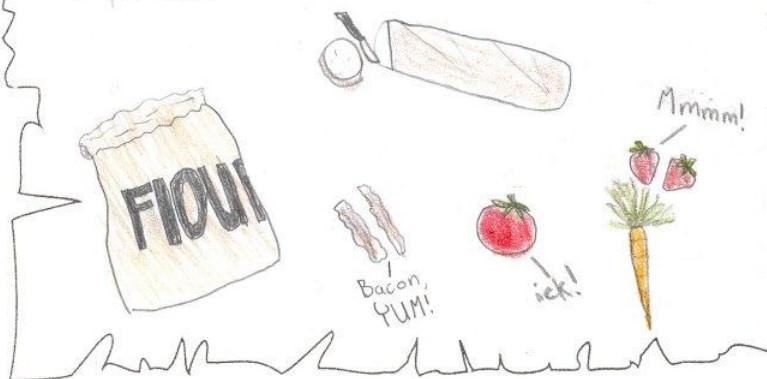
(4)

The oxen aren't the only animals that we're bringin'. We've got a dairy cow for milk and two hens. The hens have soft black and brown feathers that are light and fluffy.



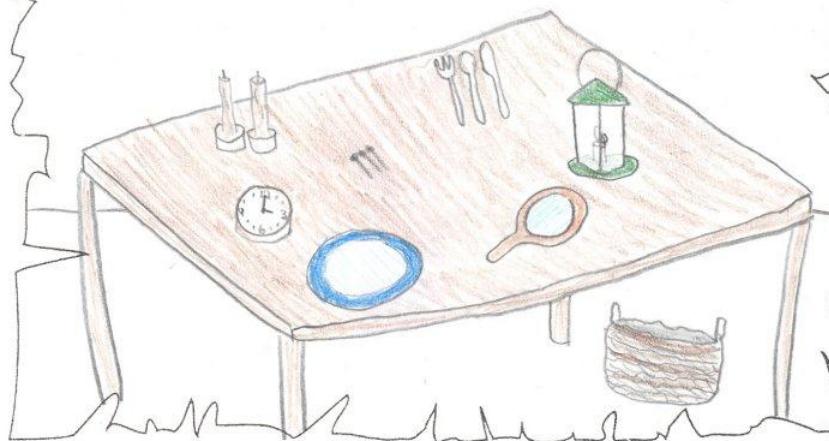
(5)

We're bringin' lots of food so that we don't run out. Ma made a long list of it so we can make sure that we don't forget anything once we leave. I'll read it to you. "50 lb. flour, 25 lb. bacon, 25 lb. vegetables, 10 lb. tin fruit, 30 lb. salt pork, 25 lb. pinto beans, 20 lb. of sugar, 5 gal. vinegar, assorted spices, and 25 lb. salt."



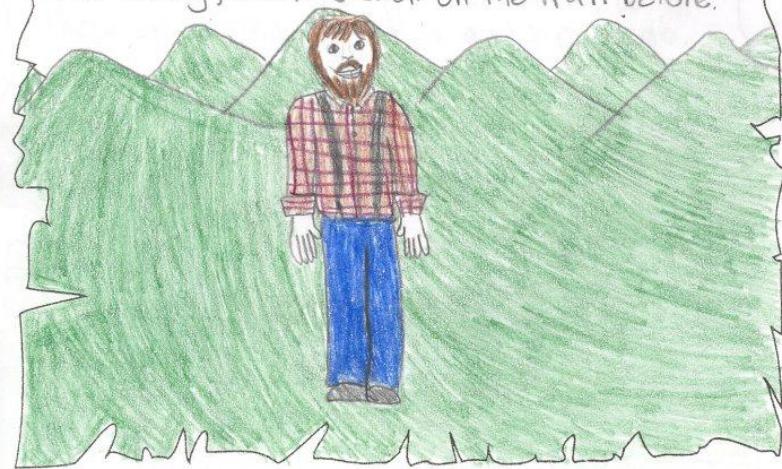
(6)

We're bringin' lots more things than just food. Things like candles, bedding, cookin' utensils, lanterns, a clock, dishes, a basket, a mirror, matches, a cookin' pan, blankets and much, much, more.



(7)

Our guides name is John Felmms.  
He's real nice and has short brown hair. He  
always has a smile on his face. Ma and Pa say  
that we chose him because he's honest and  
trustworthy, and he's been on the trail before.



(8)

We're leavin' tomorrow! I'm real  
worried 'bout my friends, back home. I mean  
Independence, Missouri is nice and the stores  
are just swell but I one of the youngest  
girls on the trail, other than babies, and  
there are hardly any other girls my age.



(9)

It's May 3, 1845 and I'm so excited! We're leavin' on the trail today! Everyone seems to be busy, rushing 'round, feeding the animals, packin' any last minute items that they think they can fit. The whole wagon train is tumblin' over each other! I'm so sorry, but I have to go feed the animals, now.



(10)

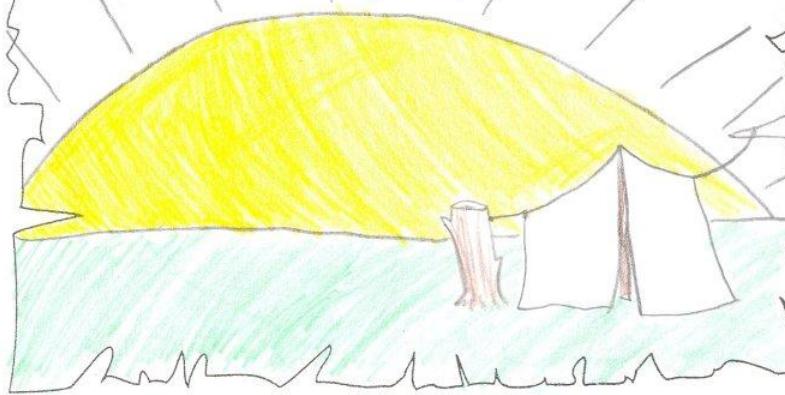
Baby Lucy has been sippin' for the last hour or so. There's a huge thunder storm and Lucy keeps waitin' and waitin'. I hasn't gotten a wink of sleep and I doubt that I will. The rains poundin' and Aunt Sandy almost got hypothermia, when she went out of the tent. I'm freezing!



⑩  
We left a grave stone at the edge  
of the trail. Aunt Sandy is now in heaven. We've  
made it to South Pass, Mr. Felmms found a place  
through Rocky Mountains where we hardy feel  
ourselves goin' up. I feel so sad and I can't make  
myself happier.



⑪  
I heard the wind whistle as I woke  
up. Ma's cookin' breakfast now. I can smell the  
sweet aroma of buttermilk lightly brushed upon my  
face in the light breeze. The ground is real  
soggy. Pa says we're almost at the Platte  
River. I hear that it's only a foot deep, but  
it's more than a mile wide!



(15)

This mornin' I woke up in a hurry! I heard a shrill scream and jumped up at the surprise. When I came out of the tent I saw a young woman, standin' very still, her eyes were wide open. A bear stood in front of her. Everyone in the area stood still 'till Pa and another man came out, with their rifles. I hid my eyes, thinkin' that they might accidentally shoot the woman. I heard two gun shots. Then everything was quiet. I opened one eye, nervous about what I might see. The woman was safe, her eyes were wide with fear. The bear was not. It lay on the ground, two bullets in him, one of them was in his chest.



*Author's Note:*

(27)

Finally!! We're off the Blue Mountains. I'm so tired. We're goin' on the Barlow Trail. We have to pay money for every person, animals, and lots of belongin's.



*Author's Note:*