

Document B: "At school all day"

Source: *Plains Woman: Diary of Martha Farnsworth, 1882-1922.*

1882 January

Tues. 24: A cold day, wind blew from South. At school all day. At home all night. . . .

George Rogers run a Wolf by the School-house, on his pony, "Pet," but did not catch it.

Thurs. 26: A grand wolf hunt . . . was to take place. About 100 out; no wolves caught. Plenty of other game. Wind blew from North-west.

February

Mon. 6: At home all day: sick and did not go to school: Strong south wind.

8-28: Diary repeats: "At home all day and night sick." [Martha had malaria 53 days.]

1883 January

Tues. 2: At school all day: sisters May and Belle & I went to Singing-school in the evening at the schoolhouse. Mr. Hittle teaches. Bert Plunket walked home with me. Here are our descriptions. I am fifteen years old, black hair, & big, black eyes. My hair curls. Bert is 15, just my height, has blue eyes and light hair. We are both heavy for our ages, and everyone says, we are "an awful cute little couple." Bert is 6 months the oldest.

Fri. 5: At school. Went to Literary in the evening with Pa, & sisters. Bert Plunket walked home with me. We have just the jolliest, best, times at Literary.

Sun. 7: At home. We live on our farm, 12 miles north of Winfield, our nearest Railroad point. We call our farm "Sunny Slope" for our house is built on the south Slope of a hill and is so sunny in winter.

Thurs. 25: At school. We play Base-ball at school, at noon, every day and have such good times: the Boys have their "9," and we girls have our "9" and when we play against the Boys we beat them every time: We all play together a good deal.

JUNE

Mon. 4: At Mr. Thompson's (neighbor), they want to adopt me; "the very idea," I would not be anyone's girl but Pa's and I wish my stepmother was good to me, so I could stay home more.

Sat. 30: At Mr. T. Went home this evening to stay all night. Rode home on horse-back; rode Kirk's 3 year old colt, "Queen," wild as a deer and never had the saddle on her before. [I] have rode nearly every kind of animal, from a Jack-ass, Burro, Cows, Hogs, Young Steers, Stallions and all, but for solid fun give me a colt to break.

EV

Document Analysis

1. What does Martha enjoy doing for fun?
2. What do we learn from Martha's diary about her family?
3. What does her diary tell us about sickness?
4. Which details about family, school, and the land might you include in your letter to your cousin?