



## Novel Ideas for the 4th & 5th Grade Classroom Using “What the Moon Said”

### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Letter-writing plays an important role in *What the Moon Said*. Write a letter that Esther might have written from the farm to her friend Shirley if she'd known Shirley's new address.
- Esther loved being part of a play at school. Take one scene from *What the Moon Said* and write it as a scene from a play.
- Esther loved to imagine and pretend. Describe something you imagined, and wish were true.
- When Esther imagined leaving the farm it made her terribly sad. Describe something you can imagine that would make you sad.
- Esther was a great speller and loved spelling bees. Ask your teacher to have a spelling bee in your class with the boys on one team and the girls on the other.



### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Superstitions are woven all through *What the Moon Said*. List five of them.
- Make up a superstition of your own.
- Esther's Ma brought her superstitions from what country? See if you can discover a superstition that comes from a country that isn't in *What the Moon Said*.
- Can you find a similar superstition that came from another country?
- Why do you think some people believe in superstitions?
- *What the Moon Said* was inspired by family stories about the author's mother's girlhood. Imagine you are grown up and want to write a story about your life now. What are the most important things you think you should include to give children of the future a sense of what it's like to grow up at this particular time in history?



## More Fun from “What the Moon Said”

### GAMES ESTHER MIGHT HAVE PLAYED

- Jacks—Played with a small (ping-pong sized) rubber ball and 10 or 12 small “jacks.”
- Ball games that could be played alone or with friends, that only required a rubber ball. Example: 7-Up, handball, stick ball, monkey in the middle, and catch.
- Hopscotch (best played on a sidewalk)
- Roller-skating
- Red Rover for teams of players but no equipment required.
- Hide and Seek
- Tag/”It”
- Jump rope – Played alone or with friends. All that was needed was with a length of clothes line, Usually included songs and special skips and turns, especially if more than one jumper was playing, but fun to do alone as well.
- Checkers
- Old Maid and other card games still played today
- Paper dolls
- Hand-slap & chanting games played by 2 people (Ex. “Miss Mary Mac”)



### BOOKS ESTHER MIGHT HAVE READ

*Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy M. Montgomery

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

*Heidi* by Johanna Spyri

*Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell

*A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

