



Ransom's Mark – Activity Suggestions

Created by Sarah Sumpolec, former teacher and author of the *Becoming Beka* series from Moody Publishers

Math and Science Skills

- 1) Bake a loaf of bread from scratch. Measure ingredients and discuss the yeast reactions that cause bread to rise. To make comparison, use cold water with one batch to show how heat is necessary.
- 2) Churn your own butter. Observe and record the process that occurs as it turns.
- 3) Olive had to dig roots when she was a slave of the Yavapai. Find out what edible foods grow in the wild in your area. What can be made from them? Draw pictures of them and if you can, prepare them and taste them.

Map and Geography Skills

- 1) Plan a 500 mile trip. What geographical landmarks will you see? What will you need to bring? Plan the fastest way to arrive at your destination. Where will you end up and why would you choose to go there?
- 2) Use maps to plot as much of Olive's journey as possible with the information provided by the book. Record what states she traveled through and what she would have seen if she were traveling through those areas now. Calculate how many miles she traveled.
- 3) Choose a city along the route that Olive would have taken. Describe what the city would have been like when Olive passed it and what it is like now. What natural and man-made resources come from that area? How has the population changed over time? How has the growth of population affected the nature of the area?

Language Skills

- 1) Write a poem or a journal entry describing Chapter 2 – the anticipation Olive must have felt as she left on her journey.
- 2) The wagon train was plagued with arguments. Tell about a time that you had a serious argument with a friend and how it was resolved.
- 3) Tell about a time when you trusted someone and were betrayed. What happened as a result?
- 4) Compare and contrast Olive's story of "Beauty and the Beast" with the Disney version.

Social Studies Skills

- 1) Lucy and Olive wonder if "all Indians are thieves" and if Indians think that all white people are "weak and foolish". What are stereotypes? Find out about some of the immigrants that came to your region and describe the stereotypes that followed them. What are some stereotypes that are around today and how can we correct them?
- 2) Olive's brother and his friends pretended to be Indians when they were on the trail. Create a game that the children on the trail could have played with the materials they could have found. Give your game a name and be sure to describe the object of the game and the rules of play.

Ransom's Mark Activity Suggestions provided courtesy of WendyLawton.com.
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