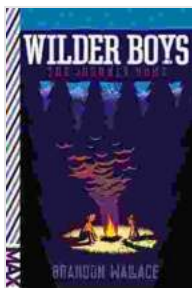


# The Journey Home: The Wilder Boys' Return to De Smet

## A Tale of Perseverance and Homecoming

In the annals of American literature, the name Laura Ingalls Wilder stands tall as a beloved chronicler of pioneer life on the American frontier. Through her captivating "Little House" series, Wilder not only painted a vivid portrait of a bygone era but also chronicled the lives of her own family, including the unforgettable Wilder boys, Almanzo and Royal.



### The Journey Home (Wilder Boys) by Brandon Wallace

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2505 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 209 pages



In the pages of "The Long Winter" and "These Happy Golden Years," we witness the trials and tribulations faced by the Wilder family during the unforgiving winter of 1880-1881 and their subsequent decision to leave their humble claim in the Dakota Territory. Among those who embarked on this westward journey were young Almanzo and Royal, eager for adventure and a chance to prove themselves as men.

However, as fate would have it, the boys' travels did not go as smoothly as planned. Their initial destination was the gold fields of California, but after a series of setbacks and misadventures, they found themselves stranded in the unfamiliar territory of Arizona Territory.

### **An Unexpected Detour**

In the scorching heat of the desert, the Wilder boys faced unforeseen challenges. They struggled to find work, endured grueling physical labor, and encountered individuals who were not always trustworthy.

Despite these hardships, Almanzo and Royal remained steadfast in their determination to return home. They worked diligently, saving every penny they could, and never abandoned hope of seeing De Smet once more.

As luck would have it, a kind-hearted rancher named Henry Boice took pity on the boys and offered them employment at his ranch. Under Boice's guidance, Almanzo and Royal learned valuable skills, such as cattle handling and farming, which would serve them well in their future endeavors.

### **The Long Road Back**

After nearly three years away from home, the Wilder boys finally had accumulated enough funds to begin their journey back to Dakota Territory. They purchased horses and set off on a perilous trek that would span hundreds of miles through unforgiving terrain.

Along the way, they encountered treacherous rivers, hostile weather, and encounters with both friendly and unsavory characters. They tested their

endurance and resolve as they navigated the vast and unforgiving wilderness.

Driven by an unwavering desire to reunite with their family, Almanzo and Royal pressed on relentlessly. They crossed the treacherous Snake River, endured the scorching heat of the Nevada desert, and finally entered the familiar grasslands of Dakota Territory.

### **A Joyous Homecoming**

On a crisp autumn day in 1886, Almanzo and Royal Wilder rode into De Smet, their hearts filled with a mixture of joy and trepidation. The townspeople greeted them with open arms, and the boys were overjoyed to finally be back home.

They were greeted by their parents, siblings, and friends, who had long since given up hope of ever seeing them again. Tears of happiness flowed freely as the family reunited, their hearts overflowing with gratitude and relief.

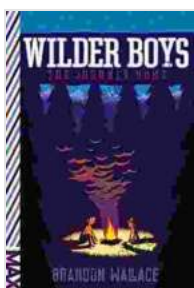
The Wilder boys' journey home was a testament to their unwavering determination, their ability to overcome adversity, and the enduring power of familial love. It was a journey that not only brought them back to their physical home but also to a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who came before them.

### **The Legacy of the Wilder Boys**

The story of the Wilder boys' return to De Smet has become an integral part of American literature and folklore. Their journey has inspired

countless others to persevere in the face of adversity and to never give up on their dreams, no matter how far from home they may be.

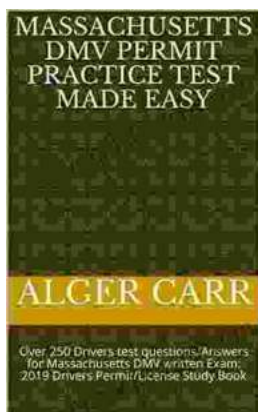
The Wilder boys' story serves as a reminder of the importance of family, the power of human resilience, and the enduring spirit that helped to shape the American frontier. Their legacy continues to inspire and motivate generations of readers, young and old, to embrace life's challenges with courage, determination, and a deep appreciation for the bonds that unite us.



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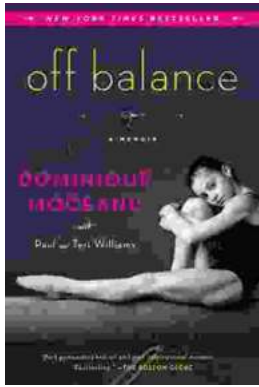
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