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American Literature

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Lessons From the Farm

- I. Introduction
 - A. Life is full of lessons learned and no one learned more than Almanzo Wilder in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Farmer Boy*.
 - B. Examples from book
 - C. The lessons of personal integrity, hard work and perseverance in adversity taught Almanzo the best way to live life.
- I. Almanzo's Character
 - A. Almanzo's character was respectful, hard working and eager to gain respect from his father.
 - B. Examples from book
 - C. By honoring his father's rules and putting his best effort into his work, he gained the respect of his father and the community.
- II. Half-dollar Symbol
 - A. The half-dollar was used as a symbol in Farmer Boy of hard work.
 - B. Examples from book
 - C. By seeing the fruit of his hard labor in dollar form, Almanzo was able to understand the joys and necessity of the work.
- III. Mood of book is finding joy and contentment while persevering through adversity

- A. While the common theme in this book is hard work, another important aspect is the mood of contentment and joy while working.
 - B. Examples from book
 - C. Almonzo learned that there is joy and contentment in working hard and honoring those in authority even when times are challenging.
- IV. Conclusion
- A. Some of life's most important lessons of integrity, hard work and perseverance in adversity were taught to Almonzo Wilder on the farm he grew up on.
 - B. Summary
 - 1. Almonzo learned to be respectful, hard-working and to gain respect for his character
 - 2. He learned the value of hard work from the symbolism of the half-dollar
 - 3. He also learned to find joy and contentment as well as to persevere during times of adversity on the farm.
 - C. While life on a farm is hard, it taught Almonzo Wilder so many important life lessons.