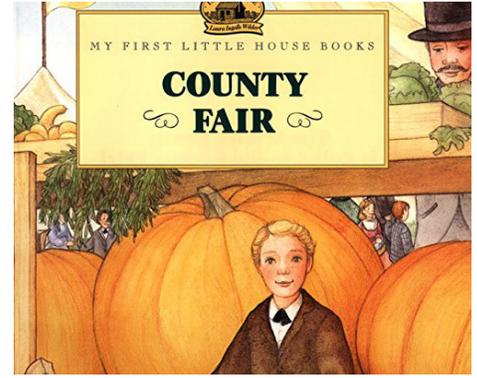


# County Fair (adapted from the Little House Books) by Laura Ingalls Wilder

**Book Synopsis:** Almanzo Wilder and his family travel to the county fair for an exciting adventure with lots to see and plenty to eat. With an enormous pumpkin he grew in tow, will Almanzo bring home the blue ribbon? This charming story was adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder's book "Farmer Boy."



## Connection to Iowa History

Laura Ingalls Wilder, writer of the Little House book series, lived in Burr Oaks, Iowa with her family in 1876-1877. The family ran the town's Masters Hotel, which still stands today as the Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum, a must-see destination for "Little House on the Prairie" fans. In fact, it is Laura's only childhood home that still stands at its original site.

## Storytime Activity

After reading the story, create your own blue ribbon to proudly display just like Almanzo. What do you do best that will win first prize?

### Questions to Spark Learning

- Why do you think fairs, like the one Almanzo visited in the story, were important events for people living outside of towns and cities?
- Almanzo brought a pumpkin to show at the fair. What would you bring to a fair to show others?
- Almanzo and his father saw many fun things to do at the fair. What would you like to do and see at that fair?

### Blue Ribbon Instructions

- 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half along the longer side (hot dog style).
- 2 Cut along the line to get two long strips of paper.
- 3 Cut an upside down "V" at one end of each strip of paper. Set both strips aside.
- 4 Cut a two-inch round circle out of a new piece of paper.
- 5 With a marker, write a large "#1" or "First Place" in the middle of the circle. If you want to personalize it, write what you think you are best at doing. It could be giving hugs, playing games, or growing pumpkins like Almanzo.
- 6 Decorate the strips and the circle using markers, and add different designs to your ribbon to personalize it. Think about borders, symbols, or anything to make it uniquely yours.

### Materials

- Two sheets of plain or colored paper
- Black marker
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

*Instructions continued on next page*

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## Instructions continued

- 7 After decorating your papers, flip the circle over and add glue to the back.
- 8 Take the two long strips, using the shorter, straight end, and glue them to the back of the circle paper. Make sure the upside down "V"s are at the bottom of your ribbon and your decoration can be seen.
- 9 Allow the glue to dry. Wear and be proud of your accomplishment.

