

## CHAPTER 2

*GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH*

The works of Laura Ingalls Wilder which are known as the series of Little House tell about the life of the Ingalls. For many years this family travelled with their wagon to Kansas, Minnesota and at last Dakota, where she met her husband. Her family travelled from 1870-1889 (Doss, M.P, West from Home, 1984 :1). The desire to write about Laura's experiences looks like come from the habit of her family and her daughter Rose, inherited her talent and became a famous journalist. The writer would quote a statement from Laura's older sister, Mary:

"I am planning to write a book some day," she confided. Then she laughed. "but I planned to teach school, and you are doing that for me, so maybe you will write the book." ( These Happy Golden Years, 1980:114).

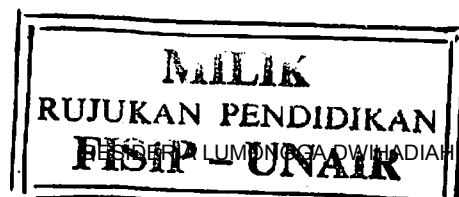
So from the statement we know that the talent of Laura came naturally as inheritance from the habit of the family. The Ingalls used to spend times of the family to read books or newspapers, and this habit inherited by the children including Laura. That's why the writer thought that it is necessary to include the biography of Laura. Beside that because we know that *These Happy Golden Years* is one of the series of Little House so the writer thought it would be clearer to see other works of this series so although the readers

haven't read the other works they could know the stories of Laura's life in short summary.

### 2.1. Biography of The Writer

Laura Ingalls was born in 1876 as the second daughter of a farmer Charles Ingalls. She was born in the Big Woods, Wisconsin and has three sisters. The Ingalls travelled from place to place, from Kansas, Minnesota, and at last Dakota with their wagon in order to get a better life. At that time, many people in America moved to west like the Ingalls and looked for lands to live and built into farms, because they wanted to start a better condition than in the east where they felt there was too many people and the lands couldn't give more crops. The Ingalls was one of the families who came to the west and considered as one of the pioneer families. At that time the government of United States wanted to build railroad to the west region, and Charles Ingalls also worked for this project beside farming.

Laura and her family faced many problems while they travelled, started new farms and kept the family. Storms, fire, a long winter or a long dry season were part of the problems while they opened the land. But the happiness to be together in the family with friends and relatives were also theirs. And Laura captured these



stories in her diaries which one day became a famous series of "Little House".

Her works started with *Little House in The Big Woods*, *Little House on The Prairie*, *On The Banks of Plum Creek*, *Farmer Boy*, *By The Shores of Silver Lake*, *The Long Winter*, *Little Town on The Prairie*, *These Happy Golden Years*, *The First Four Years*, *On The Way Home*, *West From Home*. Those books contain of the Ingalls' experiences as a pioneer family and Laura's stories about their lifes. Each of the books deal with one particular period.

*Little House in The Big Woods* is Laura's memories of her early life. There were stories when she was 5 years old and lived in a house in the middle of the wood in Wisconsin. She wrote about her childhood, for example when her grandfather arranged a sugaring-off dance party.

*Little House on The Prairie* tells about the movement of the Ingalls from big woods and lived in the cage for months before found their land. But unfortunately they had to move again because it was the Indian territory.

*On The Banks of Plum Creek* is the story when Laura was 9 years old and lived in a strange house. That little house built under the dike of the river Plum. And because there were other families with children, Laura

and Mary, her older sister went to school for the first time. It was also the first time they made a party at their house.

*Farmer Boy* tells about the childhood of Almanzo Wilder, the man who became Laura's husband in the future. He wasn't came from a pioneer family because his family had a farm already at a place near Malone, New York. But the hard working life was the same with Laura's family.

Laura's family moved to Dacota territory near the place where finally the family settled in, told in *By The Shores of Silver Lake*. Laura told about her father who worked for rail road company and where they lived in the labors dorm near the Silver Lake.

The desperation of the Ingalls when they had to face winter which happened for six months and there were no food anymore, told in *The Long Winter*. It also a story about Almanzo's bravery to find wheath for the people in town at a place far away.

*Little Town on The Prairie* is the story when Mary went to the college for the blind people. And the progress of the new places which slowly became a town.

*These Happy Golden Years* which will be discussed further in the other section of this chapter is the story of her experiences when she became a teacher, her growing relationship with Almanzo, engaged and married him.

*The First Four Years* is the life of new family Wilder and their only daughter Rose. The happiness and difficulties came one by one.

*On The Way Home* is the story of Wilder's journey to find a new place after the dry season came to their land. And told about their new home.

*West From Home* is the collection of Laura's letters to her husband when she visited her daughter at San Francisco. At that time their daughter had already became a journalist.

Laura and her husband lived in the same place until their old days. And after her death her stories were published in a series and being filmed under the same tittle.

Laura's capacity is to tell her own life experiences in detail and chronologically which attract the readers to read this story. That's why it is considered as a good example of narrative because every event is linked to each other chronologically. And Although Laura is the narrator and one of the participants in her story yet refer to herself as to a third person "she". The relations in the story are obvious and the coherences are exact by the description of the story or problem. Every books consists of many episodes but they were built into one long story. And there are relations between one book and the other.

**CHAPTER III**  
**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**  
**OF THE DATA**