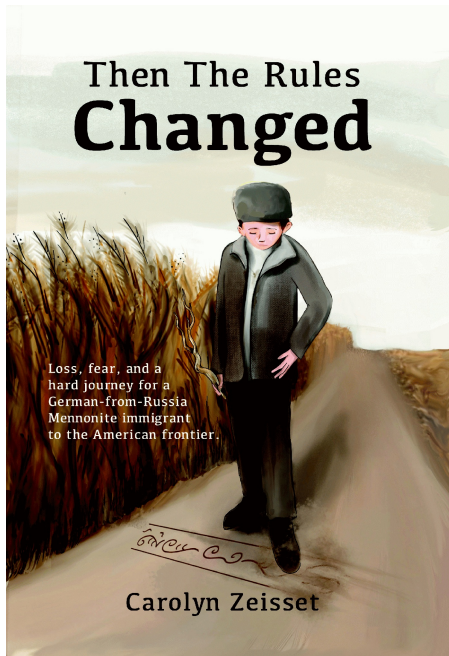


Homestead NHP and a German-From-Russia Boy



Find museum items that are in the story.



*To You from Isaac,
Autumn 1879*

*Everyone knows how the
world works.*

*The Czar of Russia makes
rules, grown-ups know the
rules, and children must obey
the rules, if they understand
them or not. That is just the
way the world works.*

*When the Czar changed the
rules, grown-ups said we could
no longer live in our German
way in Russia. I did not under-
stand, but my life changed.*

(Page vii)

Visitor Center

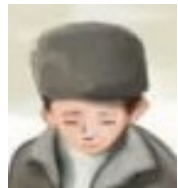


The men made wooden tools – a shovel and pitchfork . . . “The blacksmith can make the iron edge for the shovel tomorrow, “ said Father. (Page 76)



Why does the shovel need an iron edge?

What is a shovel or a pitchfork used for?



The men made tools – a rake. (Page 76)



What is the rake made of?

What is a rake made of today?

What is a rake used for?



Isaac wanted to pack the toy horse and wagon Grandfather Janzen had carved for him, but there was no room. (Page 19)



Isaac’s family could take only one trunk. What would be most important to take?

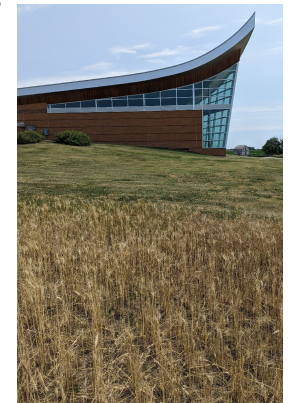
How would your family move things to a different place?

Behind Visitor Center



Before the 1870s most farmers on the plains tried to grow spring wheat. *They planted in spring, but summers were hot and dry so*

the crops did not grow well. ... People like Isaac’s family brought Turkey Red winter wheat from South Russia in the mid-1870s. ... Today farmers in plains states grow hard red winter wheat that comes from Turkey Red wheat. (Pages 172-173)



What is something you eat that is made from wheat?

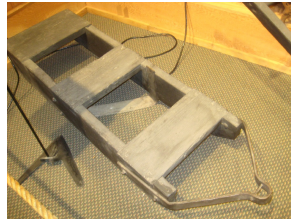
Education Center Farm Implement Room



Isaac examined a small, flat wooden box with two open sides. ...Herr Lepp hitched the oxen to the flat wooden box. ...Isaac heard the blade rip through tough grass roots. ...Father and Herr Lepp chopped the cut sod into two-foot lengths. ... At the level place behind the house, the men laid the sod pieces in straight lines forming a large rectangle. (Pages 93-95)

Read the sign “Sodcutter”

Watch the video about plowing and planting. Look especially for the sod cutter.



What tool could you use to dig out weeds or turn over soil?



“An uppity farmer wanted a new sod-buster plow and just threw away this good sod cutter,” Herr Lepp said. (Page 94)

Read the sign “Sod Breaking Plow and Yoke”



Isaac’s family used sod to make a building. What is your house built with?



The men made handles for the sickle, scythe, and knife blades. ... Herr Martens gave rasps to Isaac and Daniel. “Make the wood smooth,” said Father. ... The work was monotonous, rubbing and rubbing wood. (Page 76)

Why does a sickle or other tool handle need to be smooth?



What is a task you get tired of doing?



“Ya, be careful now,” Father yelled when Isaac and Daniel tumbled, laughing and panting, into the tall grass. Isaac slunk back as Father swung his scythe in low wide arcs along the edges of a mown spot. (Page 87)

Why did Father warn the boys about the scythe?



What does someone use to cut grass in a field or a lawn today?



Father sat in a small, creaking wagon pulled by two oxen. One was large and walked with heavy, slow steps. The other was smaller and walked faster so that the yoke between them bounced instead of riding evenly over their necks. (Page 92)



What part of the yoke goes around the necks of the oxen?

A pair of oxen are called a team. How many are in a pair?

What is something you have that is a pair?

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For more information about
Then the Rules Changed
see <https://carolynzeisset.com>

Included are activities
and discussion starters



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