

## Museum Gift Shop

Peppernuts are favorite treats for many people. Isaac's family was too poor to bake peppernuts for their first Christmas in America, but they would have them in coming years.

What is a favorite treat you have for a holiday?



## Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum

200 N. Poplar, Goessel, Kansas 67053

[www.goesselmuseum.com](http://www.goesselmuseum.com)

[goesselmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:goesselmuseum@gmail.com)

## Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum and a Mennonite Boy



Find museum items that are in the book.



*Then the Rules Changed*  
by Carolyn Zeisset  
is published by Prairieland Press.

Available in the Museum Gift Shop

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

Included are activities and  
discussion starters



Then The Rules  
**Changed**

*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  
Mennonite way in Russia. I did  
not understand, but my life  
changed. (Page vii)*

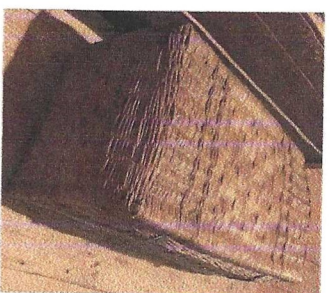
## Immigrant House: Immigrant Room

*"Help Daniel fetch the wicker travel hamper," said Mother. "The basket maker wore a new one."*  
(Page 14)



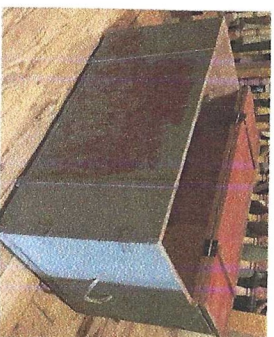
How did they carry the hamper?

A travel hamper was carry-on luggage. What would you put in it?



*Isaac wanted to pack the toy horse and wagon Grandfather Janzen had carved for him, but there was no room. ...In Kansas the men made handles for the sickle, scythe, and knife blades Father brought in the steamer trunk. (Pages 19, 76)*

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



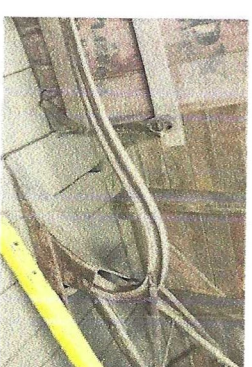
How would your family move things to a different place?



*Isaac and Father hitched the plow to the oxen. ...Father took hold of the handles. ... "Now we plow." ...They reached the end of the field. Behind them lay one fourteen-inch furrow of dark brown earth.*  
(Pages 110-111)

What part of the plow dug a furrow?

What would you use to make a little trench or rut to plant seeds?



## South Bloomfield School

*The teacher ... marched Isaac to the front desk with the two little girls and a ragged boy. (Pages 122-3)*

How many students sat at one desk in the story?

How many might sit at the museum desks?



What would you use to write on a slate?



What do you write on at school?

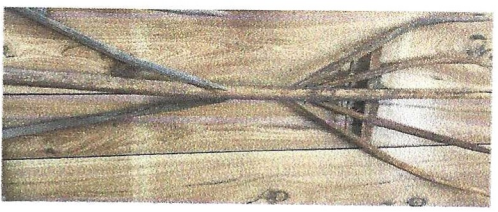


*The men made tools—a shovel, pitchfork, rake.*  
(Page 76)

What is the pitchfork made of?

What would it be made of today?

What is a tool you have at your house?



## Schroeder Barn

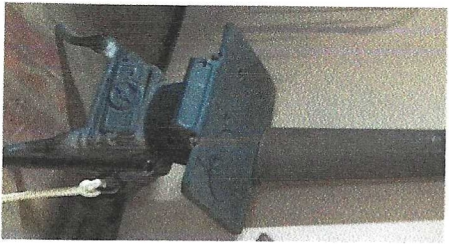


*Isaac was surprised at how fast the soddy's stove burned the grass. He picked up a loose handful and threw it toward the little black monster.* (Page 83)

How many pots or pans fit on the stove?

What fuel does the kitchen stove use at your house?

How many pots or pans fit on your stove?



*Isaac stumbled over his boots when he rose from his grass and coat bed.*  
(Page 120)

The museum boots are a man's. How big would 10-year old Isaac's boots be?

Isaac had only his boots for shoes in America. How many shoes do you have?



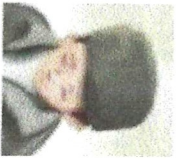
## Immigrant House: Family Showcases

*The table! Christmas morning! ... There was a pair of socks on Isaac's plate.* (Page 148)



What are the socks made of?

How many are in a pair? What do you have that is a pair?



*Lena ... was pretty in her new head scarf. Its painted burnt orange cabbage flowers and aqua leaves were brilliant against the black dye.* (Page 7)

What is painted on the museum scarf?



What do you wear that has a picture or design?



"Isaac, I must measure you for a shroud," said Mother. ... "The ship has rules. Everyone must have a shroud." ... (Page 12)

Mother said, "Isaac, fetch the shrouds from the hamper. Our journey is over. Now they are nightshirts." Isaac shuddered. *If I wear a shroud tonight, will I die while I sleep?* (Page 82)

What was a shroud used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What is something you use for more than one

thing? \_\_\_\_\_



### Immigrant House: West End

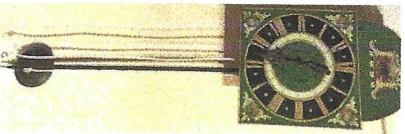
*When Isaac took the clock from the steamer trunk, the single hand still pointed to just before ten, the time it stopped when Lena packed it in the trunk in Russia.* (Page 118)



What time is it on the museum clock?

Isaac's family lived in the sod house several weeks before they hung the clock. How do you think they told time without a clock?

What are at least two ways you tell time?



### Turkey Red Wheat Palace



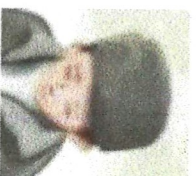
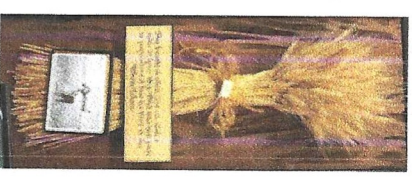
Isaac scooped up a handful of wheat seeds and dropped them into the crockery jar. "NO, NO, NO," shrieked Lena.... Tante Maria brought a pan and poured the already chosen seed into it. "Take out the poor grains you put into Lena's good seed."

Isaac picked up one grain, examined it, and dropped it into the empty jar. He picked up another. Another. Another, and another. (Pages 11-12)

How many kernels do you think there are on one head of wheat? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a task you need to do carefully?

What is a task you get tired of doing?



"Ya, be careful now," Father yelled. ... 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?

How is grass in a field or a lawn cut today?

