The historical significance of The little house on the prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder: an honors thesis (HONRS 499)

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Abstract:
This thesis is a discussion of the historical significance of the series of children's novels written by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The purpose is to delve beyond the fact that the series was intended for children and look at the books topically. Topics analyzed include growing up in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, daily life, family ties, courtship, marriage, homesteading the American frontier, dangers of homesteading, building railroads, and education. A comparison will be drawn between Laura's descriptions and information found in outside sources in order to prove how historically accurate Laura's novels are.

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The "Little House" Books is a series of American children's novels written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, based on her childhood and adolescence in the American Midwest (Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Missouri) between 1870 and 1894. Eight of the novels were completed by Wilder, and published by Harper & Brothers. The appellation "Little House" books comes from the first and third novels in the series of eight published in her lifetime. The second novel was about her husband's childhood Part #2 of Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Laura Ingalls Wilder. Illustrated by Garth Williams. Chapter 1. Going West. A long time ago, when all the grandfathers and grandmothers of today were little boys and little girls or very small babies, or perhaps not even born, Pa and Ma and Mary and Laura and Baby Carrie left their little house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. They drove away and left it lonely and empty in the clearing among the big trees, and they never saw that little house again. They were going to the Indian country. Pa said there were too many people in the Big Woods now. Quite often Laura heard the ringing thud of an ax...