



## MANIFEST DESTINY

### The Oregon Trail

#### Hook: Teacher Performance

*\*This idea was developed as part of my graduate studies with two of my classmates that are amazing people and great teachers. I thank Ms. Phelps and Ms. Podolec for lending their ideas, creativity, talents, and humor to this wonderful hook that will definitely captivate any group of students!*

*-The Prairie School can be a wagon (radio flyer) or anything creative. We combined simple household items for a hands-on feel and authenticity mixed with some comic relief. The more items available the more engaged students will be. Male and female parts can be played by anyone depending on your co-actors!*

TEACHER 1 - Head of family

TEACHER 2 - Wife/Spouse

TEACHER 3 - Child of family

Items for the Prairie Schooner:

<i>Rope</i>	<i>Wheel</i>	<i>Quilt</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Pillows</i>	<i>Seeds</i>
<i>Clothes Shoes</i>	<i>Lantern</i>	<i>Knife</i>	<i>Axe</i>	<i>Flint Rock</i>	
<i>Animals</i>	<i>Fishing Rods</i>	<i>Axle</i>	<i>Shovel</i>	<i>Extra Tarp</i>	<i>Hammer</i>
<i>Saw</i>	<i>Gun (toy)</i>	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Toy Doll/Car</i>	<i>Candles</i>	<i>Bulk goods</i>

#### Opening Monologue: TEACHER 1 (male character)

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. It's not everyday you pack up your life and set off into the unknown. This land here's been good to me, and to my father and our fathers before him. This here picture, that's my pa and his pa; they built our lives here from the ground up. But this land can't give forever and times are tough; it's time to move on. The men returnin' from the west, at least the ones who do, have been tellin me stories of turnips bigger than you can carry in an arm, deer twice the size i e'er seen, and lakes with more fish than any man would know what to do with. Maybe that's just the good Lord callin' us home...

#### Acting: Filling the Wagon

*\*Improvisation while filling the wagon or write lines*

**\*\***There will be a brief argument over whether or not we bring pots and pans - it is decided we leave them behind.

After the wagon is packed, we "take off"

#### Monologue: TEACHER 2 (female character)

"We been on this trip for 2 whole months and I don't know that I can make it the other half. I am always hungry and my shoes are torn through. I could only bring two pairs of shoes and ma says I have to save the other pair for when we get there. I'm startin' to think we will never get there. Two day ago our horse, Red, died. Red was my horse back home. It makes me sad to lose that horse, one of the few things left from the homestead. Now ma and pa are cooking Red for dinner and they think I won't notice. This will be the first time we had meat in 2 weeks..."

*\*When TEACHER 2 is done, TEACHER 1 will start by saying: "There ain't a bridge anywhere 'round here. We're gonna have to just ford it. (frustrated)"*

#### Acting: The family comes to a river, they need to decide what to do

-TEACHER 3 doesn't want to. She says to keep looking for a way around. Too much to lose.

-If we go around we're going to lose too many days and winter is going to come

-TEACHER 2 - should we stop and fish?



-TEACHER 3 - "No, you go look for another way. Now run along child. Mama needs to sit down a second..."

\*TEACHER 3 gets the lights, TEACHER 1 is "wading in the River"

-TEACHER 1 is going to go "wade through, check it out" - while they're doing this TEACHER 3 is going to go to the wagon to get a pole and start fishing. TEACHER 2 walks away and does her monologue.

\*TEACHER 3 controls the lights. When they goes "to look for another way" they can hit the lights.

**Monologue:** Sara

" I haven't been feeling well in the past few days. I don't know if it is the lack of food or the water. I wish we had brought those pots and pans. A warm towel on my head would feel wonderful right now. Lately, we have needed to make frequent stops due to my sickness. I'm trying to hide it the best I can. I don't want my family to worry, or worse leave me behind. I have intense stomach pains and I am so thirsty, my lips are dry, and even my skin feels dry.If I could only rest, I'm so tired, but we have to keep moving... I'm afraid I'm holding us back."

**Acting:**

Once TEACHER 2 is done, TEACHER 1 comes back and says it's OK to wade through. Once the characters get to the other side, there's a gravestone.

-TEACHER 3: Epitaph reads... "Here lies Frederick Lawson, died of Cholera, 1844. I wonder what will happen to us... and what the heeeeeeck is Cholera?!?!"

**End**