

The shortage of food and water in "War Party" was very evident during the course of the story. In fact, the shortage was so bad, that Bud, the youngest in the wagon group, had to kill a buffalo to keep everyone from starving. Water was also a problem, because nothing but prairie was in the way of the wagon group, meaning no water would be available unless rain had started. "In the mountains ahead there will be streams and forests; there will be fish and game, logs for houses and meadows for grazing." (746) Due to this quote, the reader gets the idea that food, water, and shelter have not been available, or simply enough to survive. Since Ma is the essential hero for this group, she keeps everyone's spirits high and tries to make the journey seem as though everything will be perfect in the new settlement. She gives everyone hope that food and water will be in abundance compared to what they have now, which is virtually nothing, other than the buffalo Bud killed.

Don't get distracted stay on topic

Stay on topic!

The constant threat of the attack of the Indians, or Natives, in "War Party" was always on the traveler's shoulders. The whole group was traveling in the west, and that means Ma, Bud, and the others were entering Indian Territory. Two groups of Indians had been encountered, with only one fatality, and close to several more. If it weren't for Ma, the entire wagon group would be dead. "What about the Sioux?" (746). This was a constant and frequent question being asked. The Sioux were encountered: however, thanks to Ma being able to speak their language, nobody died. The thought of turning back before an encounter was definitely in the minds of Mr. Buchanan, Tryon Burt, and Mr. White, but the whole group pushed on, almost being killed by the one thing everyone was worried about.

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This journey had all 3 versions of previously discussed topics. They all came at a different time, which really meant the difference between life and death. If bad weather and the Sioux came together, for sure the whole wagon group would have perished. Fortunately, Ma and