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| *November 23d, 1917*  *Hello, my name is Amanda.  I just started Grade 5 at the school in our town. My teacher asked us to write a note to students 100 years from now to tell them what school is like now. My elder brothers and younger sisters all go to the same school and we share one big classroom. The average number of children in a class is 60!  Miss Matheson is the teacher.  She teaches all the kids and all the subjects in our community. Miss Matheson teaches everyone from Kindergarten to Grade 12.  But there aren't very many students in the higher grades.  Billy is in Grade 6 now.  Father says this will be his last year in school.  He needs Billy to help more on the farm next year. I go to school most of the time, except when I have to help mom go to market to sell our eggs.  I think that in 100 years, there will be special days off so that kids can help sell eggs and won't have to miss class to do it.*  *Our school day starts at* ***8:50*** *A.M.. Bell rings, students line up according to height. Boys enter classroom first. Students stand at attention by their desks in silence. Teacher calls out our names. Each bows or answers "present". Children who are truant (late), behave badly or do poor work are caned. At* ***9:30*** *A.M. we practice writing and at* ***10:00*** *A.M reading. At* ***10:30*** *A.M we study arithmetic.  We use small chalkboards to practice math and we use pens that we dip in ink to practice writing. We have to buy our own books and Father says it's too expensive to buy new ones each year.  I always have to use Billy's old books.  He took pretty good care of them,* Father would have taken him behind the wood shed *if he hadn't! At* ***11:00*** *A.M Non-Christian children asked to leave the room, and the rest are praying, and then we have a discussion on humbleness.  It's cold this morning.  We have a big stove at the front of the room to keep the class warm in the winter. Now it is noon* ***(12:OO)*** *and it is a lunch time. I made our lunches today. Billy never has time to eat his lunch.  He's too busy taking care of his horse.  He's so lucky to be able to ride to school.  Sarah and I have to walk.  I know it's only one mile and that lots of kids have to walk farther, but it would still be fun to ride a horse.  I think in* ***100*** *years all of the kids will have their own horses and be able to ride to school, even the girls. After the lunch we have some object lessons, for example “Potato”, the teacher instructs us about the potato, what family it's from, and how it grows. At* ***2:50*** *P.M. we have play time and then at* ***3:30*** *P.M. class is dismissed.*  *It's almost time for recess, so I'm going to finish my note now.  One thing's for sure, if there's still school in 100 years there will still be recess!  Amanda* |
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