



Journey to Nowhere

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In the spring of 1815, Remembrance "Mem" Nye and her family set off in a covered wagon from their farm in Connecticut to the western New York wilderness. Mem and her mother see it as a journey to nowhere since there won't be any houses or neighbors, just endless forest. Their journey is filled with the uncertain danger of wild animals, raging storms, and cruel strangers. When Mem is unexpectedly separated from her family, she must face every danger alone while hoping to find her family again.

Journey to Nowhere Details

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Author : Mary Jane Auch

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Books Kids Like says

In the spring of 1815, Remembrance Nye, her parents, and her little brother, Joshua, leave the only home they have ever known in Connecticut. Mem's father has decided that the land in upper state New York will offer the family richer opportunities. To Mem and her mother, it is a journey to endless forest, no family, and no neighbors. One morning, just after they set off for the day, Mem falls out of the back of the wagon. The thunder and lightning of the morning's storm keeps her parents from realizing that she is missing. Mem goes back to the tavern where they spent the night, but she is frightened off by one of the terrible turkey drovers staying there. Lost and alone in the forest, Mem spends the night in a hollow tree. Artemus Ware, a wandering frontiersman finds her, and they head out for New York to find Mem's family. Then, Mr. Ware is bit by a rattler and Mem must be brave so she can save his life and be reunited with her family.

Rachel says

I think if I were a younger reader I would really love this book. Once my daughter is older I will read this to her and we will have to get the sequels.

Jacki says

Mem Nye and her family move from their farm in Connecticut to western New York to begin their lives anew. Along the way, 11-year-old Mem gets lost from her family. Soon after they find each other, their wagon tips over in a river, making them lose some of their valuables. When they finally reach their new home, the trees threaten to take Mem and her brother's life. After thinking they are all alone in the wilderness, neighbors come to help raise their cabin. Mem makes a friend and she and her family realize that they really have come home.

Ratforce says

Journey to Nowhere is the first book in Mary Jane Auch's Pioneer trilogy. With a similar feel to Laura Ingalls Wilder's books, this series takes place in the New York wilderness and features all of the exciting types of challenges and uncertain dangers that pioneers were confronted with.

Kellyn says

Remembrance Nye, nicknamed Mem, leaves her beloved grandmother and her home in Connecticut and travels with her parents and brother to upstate New York. Mem quickly learns that life in the wilderness is harder than he had ever imagined. As they travel her mother becomes more distant and sad. When the family arrives at their tract of land, Mem discovers the challenges have just begun. Mem hopes to become a teacher

but the demands of homesteading keep her away from school. The few times she is able to go to school she finds that she is tongue-tied and the teacher moves her to the lowest reading group.

Eventually Mem's family is ready to build their cabin and the neighbors come to help. The company and the new cabin cheer up her mother and Mem thinks life is finally becoming tolerable.

The detailed description of daily life in 1815 adds to the charm of this story. This realistic account conveys the harshness of life on the frontier yet also captures the determination and skill of the pioneers. Mem is an endearing character who quickly captures the reader's imagination.

This is the first of three books about Mem and her family. The next book is Frozen Summer and the third is Road to Home.

Unlike the Little House on the Prairie series, these stories are not for younger students.

Lindsay says

It was really cute and I was constantly trying to guess as to what was going to happen next. I really enjoyed it and I can't wait to finish the series when I can find the other books to buy.

I gave this book four out of five stars only because it was a little slow in some places and I found some of it rushed towards the second half. But I really enjoyed it nonetheless.

I can honestly say the character development was truly wonderful and I loved to see how each character changed throughout the book. With each situation I got to see how each character would handle it, I thought that was pretty cool to see.

Miss Amanda says

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1815, move from Connecticut to western NY. 11 year old Remembrance "Mem" Nye and her family leave their home and relatives to journey to the wilderness in NY state.

I think this story would appeal to readers who enjoyed "The Quilt Walk".

Sequel: "The Frozen Summer"

Lainie says

An easy read and you'll never want to put it down. It's a story about sacrifice, courage, bravery and love. Mem, the main character is a great example of each characteristic, she battles many hardships but stays true

to her family through the trials, and makes the most and best out of it. If you ready for an adventure, check it out!

Ariel Lee says

I am currently reading this book . I really like this book , and I like how mr. Ware helped mem . But I was scared that he was going to die because of the rattle snake bite . But I hope she find her parents and brother .

Ruth says

Another fun historical fiction with a feisty girl heroine. Exemplifies why I like h.f.--I learned a lot about the time and place. And that was especially enjoyable this time around, because it crossed paths with the family history I'm doing right now. I could put my ancestors into this story. Fun!

The family is interesting. Realistic, in that they argue, have differences, deal with stress. Heroine too--she's upfront about her imperfections. However, I felt like there was maybe too much emphasis on this. But I guess that's Auch's call, if it's what she wants to explore. Anyway, found it an interesting element.

Matthew says

A wonderful work about early pioneers opening up the eastern United States. This book follows the movement of a young girl and her family from Connecticut to New York and their perilous journey and early settlement. Although a great story and interesting this novel could have been three separate pieces. A little wordy but overall a great read.

Kristen says

Mem and her family are leaving the life she loves, and her beloved grandmother to journey west to the Great Lakes region in the early 1800's.

She has a bad attitude to begin with, but proves herself tough and brave. Perhaps tougher and braver than her parents. She becomes separated from them for a time, and is able to survive on her own. She meets an old wanderer who teaches her a thing or two about the forest.

The journey is difficult, but really doesn't get much easier once they reach their destination and must build a cabin and clear land before winter sets in.

Kassie says

This book begins a trilogy about a girl and her family relocating to upstate New York in 1815. Picked it up because the time period and location caught my eye. I realized that that would be the approximate time that

Joseph Smith and his family were also making that journey to the same area.

I like this first book, liked the resourcefulness of the lead character, Mem. I liked that it ended on a positive note and was anxious to read the next book. My favorite character was Artemus Ware, an odd, kind wandering frontiersman who befriends Mem and helps her out.

Aaryansinghal says

This book was a interesting, but very short story. It is realistic fiction. It tells us about people who move from the east to the west for more opportunities. This book is about this girl's family who move from the east to west because the west had more money making opportunities, and when they have moved to the west, they happily think of themselves as westerners. The author really describes their journey from the east to the west very well. I would reccommend this book to people who like to read short but meaningful stories.

Karen Arendt says

Great story! I love that it takes place in my "own backyard". I kept waiting for something awful to happen just out of meanness, but it is so nice to see a story that is hopeful all the way through! Mem and her family have many adventures that have the reader wondering if the family will survive, but it all turns out well in the end. Great for 4th grade and 5th grade pioneer units, too.
