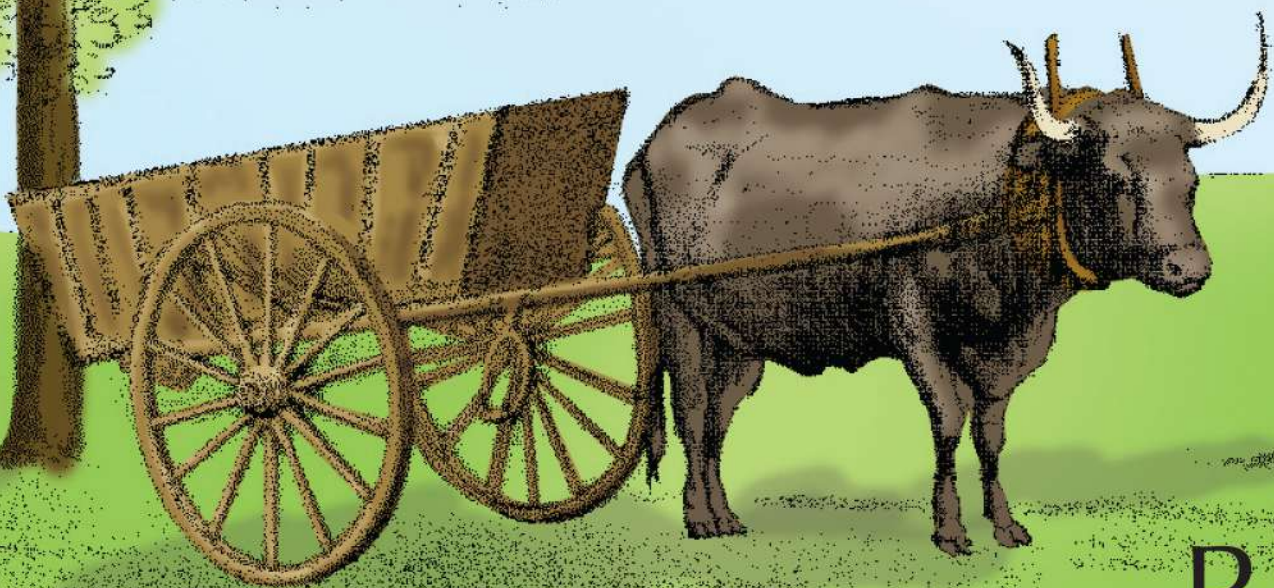


# *Ox-Cart Man* *Study Guide*

by Rebecca Gilleland

For the book by  
Donald Hall and  
Barbara Cooney



Progeny Press

## Table of Contents

Note to Instructor .....	4
Synopsis .....	5
About the Author .....	6
About the Illustrator .....	7
Background Information .....	8
Before-you-read Activities .....	9
As-you-read Activities .....	11
Vocabulary .....	13
Looking at the Story .....	15
Dig Deeper .....	19
Planning Ahead .....	21
Word Search Puzzle.....	22
After-you-read Activities .....	24
Additional Resources .....	26
Answer Key .....	27

## Synopsis

*Ox-Cart Man* is a simple and rhythmic story of a man who fills his ox-cart with all the goods his family has produced over the last year and takes them to market. After selling everything, he buys a few items and walks home. The book follows the year's cycle of work, through the seasons. Through hard work and cooperation, the family, as a unit, provides for itself.

*Ox-Cart Man Study Guide*

6. What do you have that was made far away in another country? List at least three things. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

7. Why do you think the farmer bought gifts for everyone and mints for the family to share, but no gift for himself? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. What did everyone do with their new gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

9. Read Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men . . .” Did the ox-cart man and his family do their work with all their hearts? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

*Ox-Cart Man Study Guide*

10. Read Proverbs 6:6–8: “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.” A sluggard is someone who is lazy. The ant is the opposite. Describe what the ant is like. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

In what ways is the farmer like the ant? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

11. Predict what would happen to the family if they did not work during the winter? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

What if they did not work during the rest of the year? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

## *Ox-Cart Man Study Guide*

# Answer Key

### *Before-you-read Activities*

1. Discussions will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Spring, March 21st, March, April, May; Summer, June 21st, June, July, August; Autumn, September 21st, September, October, November; Winter, December 21st, December, January, February
4. Answers will vary but should mention that the harvest is in the fall.

### *As-you-read Activities*

1. The students' answers should match within reason.  
January: carve a new yoke, saw planks, split shingles, embroider, carve brooms, make linen, make candles.  
February: carve a new yoke, saw planks, split shingles, embroider, carve brooms, make linen, make candles.  
March: tap sugar maples, boil sap down.  
April: sheared sheep, spun yarn, weave and knit.  
May: plant garden, gather feathers, collect honey.  
June: gather feathers, collect honey, tend garden.  
July: gather feathers, collect honey, tend garden.  
August: harvest garden.  
September: harvest garden, pick apples.  
October: go to market.  
November: stitch new harness, daughter sews, son whittles.  
December: carve a new yoke, saw planks, split shingles, embroider, carve brooms, make linen, make candles.
2. Answers will vary.

### *Vocabulary*

#### *Synonyms:*

1. sheared: cut, clipped, snipped, shaved, cropped; 2. shawl: wrap, scarf, cloak, mantle, veil, cape, muffler; 3. linen: cloth, fabric; 4. carved: cut, whittled, chiseled; 5. coins: money, funds, cash; 6. squawked: squeaked, honked, quacked.

*Definitions:* Answers will vary on their definitions. Dictionary definitions are given.

1. loom: a frame or machine for interlacing thread to form a cloth
2. tapped: to pierce so as to let out or draw off a fluid (maple trees)
3. kettle: a metallic vessel for boiling liquids
4. harbor: a part of a body of water protected and deep enough to furnish anchorage
5. planks: a heavy, thick board

### *Looking at the Story*

1. Father: wool, candles, oxcart, ox, apples, cabbages, shingles, potatoes, turnips, maple sugar  
Mother: candles, a shawl, linen, apples, cabbages, potatoes, turnips, maple sugar  
Son: candles, birch brooms, goose feathers, apples, cabbages, potatoes, turnips, maple sugar  
Daughter: candles, mittens, goose feathers, apples, cabbages, potatoes, turnips, maple sugar
2. 120 miles. Answers will vary, roughly 2–3 hours.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. England.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary. If this question is discussed in class, the teacher may want to bring out that there was perhaps nothing he felt he needed.
8. Began using them right away.