

## Pioneer Diary      Historical Fiction

It has been a long, hard day. I'm tired of being a pioneer. We walked for miles. The wagon was so full that only one could ride in it. My wife is having a baby soon. We have a long trip to make. So I tell her she should ride in the wagon. On days when the trip is hard, I am sorry we started. But she says, "Keep going. We will be glad to get to our new home." She is very brave. I know she will be a good mother.

Then, just when we got to the place to camp, we got a scare. There was a big bear. It came out of the woods. It was hungry. I was afraid. The wagon leader threw a loaf of bread near it. The bear turned. Then he shot at it. He missed, but it ran away.

We were glad the danger was over. But the leader said, "No, we have to keep moving. Another bear will be behind this one."

So we got back on the trail. We were so tired. Mrs. Jackson said to me, "I think the leader is not good. My husband would be a better leader. We should change leaders."

Everyone was tired. But they knew the leader would take us to safety. Then we got to the bottom of the hill. There was an open space. There was a river. The wagon leader said, "This is it, let's stop here."

We were fine until one of the Jackson children jumped in the river. He started to be carried downstream. I rushed in to get him. He was crying when I brought him out. But then he smiled and thanked me.

We were worried about the river, so we told children to stay out of it. "It is dangerous," I said. You can get water in a bucket. But do not go in the water. We want you to stay safe.

Mrs. Jackson came by to talk more. I thought she would come to thank me. But, no. She said, "My husband should be leader."

My wife said, "That's just envy. We have a good leader. We are safe. He had done this trip five times before. He knows what to do. You should mind your children." My wife is wise. Mrs. Jackson should listen to her.

What is the theme of this story?

Underline the parts of the story that support your conclusion.