

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Review Questions

### Prologue: The Great Plow-Up (1880s-1920s)

#### MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

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##### A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

*The purpose of these questions is to check the students' understanding of the action of the game and the history embedded in that action. Since the outcome of gameplay can vary depending on the choices the student makes, the answers to the questions may also vary.*

*Some students might learn information from the game later than others, or not at all. If you choose to discuss responses as a whole group, information can be shared among all your students.*

*There may be more questions here than you want your students to answer in one sitting or in one evening. In that case, choose the questions you feel are most essential for their understanding of the prologue.*

*Feel free to copy the following pages of this activity for your students.*

*If you are not planning to have your students write the answers to the questions, you'll need to modify the directions.*

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### Prologue: The Great Plow-Up (1880s-1920s)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: After you play the Prologue, read and answer these questions from the point of view of your characters, Ginny and Frank Dunn. You may not know all the answers, so do the best you can. Write in complete sentences and proofread your work.

1) Before much of Texas and the Midwest became wheat farms, what different groups of people lived on the land? What happened to these groups?

*At first, different Native American tribes lived throughout the western states. But after the Civil War, settlers started to populate the area and forced the tribes into reservations. Ranchers then brought their cattle onto the land. But that too ended when the price of beef collapsed.*

2) Why did farmers call wheat "liquid gold?"

*In the 1900s, the government offered to buy wheat for \$2 a bushel, which made farmers more money than they ever made before and encouraged them to plant more wheat.*

3) The Dunns don't have plumbing on their farm, unlike most folks in town. Where does the family get its water? What are some of the ways they use their water supply?

*The family has a windmill that pumps water out of the ground into a tank. They use the water from it for their animals, for cooking, and for watering their vegetables.*

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- 4) Describe the Dunn family's farm. What type of crops do they have? What animals do they raise?

*The Dunns have a number of different livestock and crops on their farm. They raise cattle for dairy, and chickens for eggs. But most of all, they are wheat farmers. They all live in a single-floor house, where the boys share a room and Ginny gets a her own space.*

- 5) According to Ginny, why are tractors better than horses for plowing fields?

*Tractors can plow fields faster than horses can and also create neater rows for crops to grow. This can mean more money for farmers.*

- 6) What is the climate like in the Texas Panhandle? How does Ginny know when springtime is coming?

*It is arid, and most plants cannot grow there. But, Ginny's family has a plum tree, which blossoms white flowers in the spring.*

- 7) Pa tells Frank, "Farming is always a gamble." What does he mean by this?

*You can't always predict if you'll make money from a crop. You need things like rain and the price of wheat to be on your side.*

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8) Why does Pa instruct Frank to leave some land "fallow" when they are farming?

*Fallow land is plowed but doesn't have any crops planted in it. This helps the soil restore itself.*

9) During the farming game, what factors affect the price of your wheat harvest?

*Changes in both the weather and the state of the country's economy affect the price of wheat. During the game, the stock market crashes and the price of wheat plummets.*

10) What "expenses" do the Dunns pay after they harvest and sell their wheat? For this question, your answer does not need to be complete sentences.

*Mortgage and tax, Farm Loan, Tractor Loan*