Julia Hand wasn't so sure she was going to like Kansas. She, her husband, and their three children had been in Kansas a few months. Now they had lost their three cows! "Oh my, give me strength to survive the winter!" Julia said.

Julia and her family had heard many good things about Kansas. They decided to pack up their belongings in a covered wagon and move from Missouri to Kansas. Julia's husband, Burt, had hopes of building a nice home on his own land. He looked forward to growing crops.

The Hand family arrived in Kansas in October. The trees were turning lovely shades of orange and yellow. It was very windy. Julia liked how the falling leaves swirled around her feet.

Burt began building their log house in November. He was eager to complete a warm home for Julia and the children. Burt had to work hard to finish the house by winter. Meanwhile, Julia took care of the cooking, washing, the animals, and the children.

One night the family's three cows disappeared. Where would they get milk for the children without cows? Julia walked and walked that first night, trying to find them. She could hear the wolves howling in the distance. & sent chills down her spine.

The next day Burt spent the entire day looking for the cows. He had no luck. On the following day they awoke to the smell of smoke in the air. A prairie fire had destroyed much of the grasses over the hill from their land. "What next?" thought Julia.

That day Burt decided to go into town to get his saw blade sharpened. It was a long trip. When he returned home he brought with him the three missing cows. Julia was the happiest she'd been in months! The cows had wandered off five miles to a neighbor's house. Luckily the neighbor had brought the cows to town just the day before. One of the poor cows had lost half her tail to a dog or wolf, but at least the cows were home!

Julia laid down under the layers of quilts on the floor of her new home. She smiled and felt better than she had for weeks. Maybe Kansas was going to be a good home after all.

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Farm Animal Word Search

- CHICKEN R R L Q O J L
- NUTAGOOGOOSSEXSY
- UMHSWHORSEX
- EZPVIXKSNVVY
- VDYMULETIBBAR
- LLOTURKEYBUXXK
- PVXCNFRWRLMHD
- YMVZQWCICHQH
- VRHAKBYZGQJQ
- DUYXJMRRDJYNM
- OAIZFKKMAVMIW
- WSYTIGKTKZDFBF

chicken, cow, goat, goose, horse, mule, oxen, pig, rabbit, rooster, sheep, turkey.

Why do you think the cows were so important to Julia and her family? Draw a picture of Julia hunting for her cows. Does this story remind you of a nursery rhyme?