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## Reading Article GP2

### **Article #4: Excerpt from "In the Shadow of the Pines"**

*by Karen K. Newell*

As they packed, Alfred and Prentice were uncertain of the future. They helped their father carry all their possessions to the wagon. Alfred looked at the house, the only home he could remember. His eyes lingered on his mother's garden, the shed where he had milked Nancy, the creaking gate that always made him hope Mama was coming home. Where would they live now?

"The trees, the trees! It's the pines!" he heard his father exclaim. He turned to look at his father who was staring up at the top of the pine trees. Had their father gone crazy?

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"They're clearing timber only a few miles from here," Papa said as their wagon headed down FM 1751, pulled by a team of mules borrowed from Grandpa Bud. "You two boys can help," he said to Alfred and Prentice. "We'll just live out in the woods „till we get a little more money saved," he added.

"We're gonna live in the woods?" Alfred asked.

"Why not?" their father responded. "Gotta live somewhere. I got some canvas, and can make a tent."

"We're gonna live in a tent?"

"Ya'all wanna sleep under the sky, or under a tent?" their father answered.

Turning off of the Sabinetown Road, the wagon headed into a thickly wooded area. They stopped and Papa unhitched the mules. He left the kids and the wagon, and headed off by himself with one of the mules.

These woods were similar to those on the Bobbitt Homestead, but the trees were more crowded together. Alfred took a deep breath. The same pine fragrance surrounded him. Kenneth and Billy started throwing pine cones and chasing each other.

"This might not be so bad after all," Prentice said. "Kind a like camping."

"And how am I supposed to wash the dishes?" Mary Joy asked.

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