

Books for Additional Reading

One Room School, by Laurence P. Pringle

A look back at events and the changing of the seasons at a one room school in rural New York during the last year of World War II.

Going to School in 1876, by John J. Loeper

Describes the life of school children in 1876 - their dress, teachers, books, lessons, discipline, and pastimes.

The One-Room School at Squabble Hollow,

by Rosemarie Hausherr

Text and pictures bring to life days at a one-room school in northern Vermont that has been functioning for more than 100 years.



The History Center in Tompkins County is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future.

In order to accomplish this mission we preserve and encourage access to The History Center's unique collections; seek out the diverse needs and interests of our community; design learning experiences and provide services that respond to those needs; create opportunities for people to learn about themselves and their place in the world; and provide a neutral environment for public discussions that bring historical perspective to current issues.

Learn more at www.thehistorycenter.net

OPEN/ FREE ADMISSION (fees for research archive access & services)

Exhibits & Research Library Hours

Tues., Thurs., Sat.: 11 - 5pm (and by appointment)

Closed Sun., Mon., Wed, Fri., and All Major Holidays

ABOUT the PROGRAM

Trumansburg Kids Explore & Discover (TKED) is a program of the TCSD Foundation with support from the Discovery Trail and the Trumansburg Central School District to provide curriculum-based field trips to the eight sites of the Discovery Trail for Trumansburg Central School District students grades Pre-K through 6.

Thank you to Art & Anthropology Inc. for the creation of this flier and to the Trumansburg Elementary PTO for the funding of the book.



TCSD
FOUNDATION

Learn more about **Trumansburg Kids Explore & Discover** at www.tcsdfoundation.org and www.discoverytrail.com



Fourth Grade

Discovery Trail Site:

The History Center in Tompkins County

401 East State Street (Rt. 79)

Ithaca NY 14850

(P) 607 273-8284

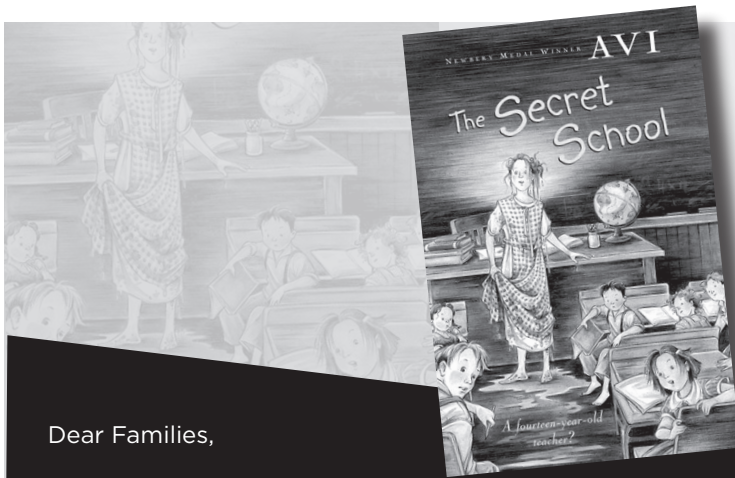
www.thehistorycenter.net



19TH CENTURY LIFE IN AN 8 SQUARE SCHOOLHOUSE

Students learn about local history and how children lived prior to the Industrial Revolution by attending school for a day in a one room schoolhouse.

book details inside >



THE SECRET SCHOOL by Avi

is a special keepsake book to celebrate your child's 4th grade trip to the The History Center in Tompkins County as part of **Trumansburg Kids Explore & Discover** program.

Special thanks to the Trumansburg Elementary PTO for funding this book.

Dear Families,

The *Secret School* by Avi is a wonderful complement to your child's Living History trip to the 8 Square Schoolhouse. The story takes place in 1925, and describes how fourteen year-old Ida Bidson secretly takes over as the teacher when the one room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area unexpectedly closes.

The first two activities that follow in this handout compare a child's life in 1925 to life today, and the last two activities relate directly to the 8 Square Schoolhouse visit, which depicts life in the 1890's.

Newspaper Activity

Look at the local newspaper for two to four weeks. Find articles about local schools and bring them into the classroom, including editorials about local school issues. Mount them on a bulletin board and have class discussions about how schools have changed from the days of one room schools.

- What are the issues facing today's schools?
- How is school different and how is it the same from the days when Ida went to school?
- How would Ida's schooling be different today given her age, for example?

Discussion About Girls' Roles in 1925 versus Today

(Adapted from *The Secret School Teachers Guide* by Jan McDonald)

In the book, Mr. Jordan says:

"I'm not sure a girl needs a high school education."

- Do you know anyone who would say this today?
- What types of jobs were available to girls in 1925?
- What types of jobs are available to girls today?
- How have the roles of girls and women changed in the last century?

Make a Tin Lunch Pail

Make a tin lunch pail and bring your lunch in it when you visit the 8 Square Schoolhouse. There were no school cafeterias in the 19th century, so everyone brought their lunch from home, where all the food was homemade.

Make a Tin Lunch Pail (continued)

Start with a clean 29 oz. tin can. Have a parent or teacher help you to punch one hole on each side of the can near the top using a nail and hammer. Thread wire or a small rope through the holes and tie, making the handle.

On a piece of cloth, trace a circle about 6-7 inches in diameter; a dessert plate is about the right size to trace. Cut out the circle. This will be the cover to put over the food in your lunch pail.

Make a Copybook

Students in one room schools often had copybooks in which to write their lessons. Teachers would write a line in the book, perhaps spelling words, for example, and the student would repeatedly copy the material until they had completely memorized it. This was done with pen and ink.

Copybooks were made by hand using cut paper, linen thread, darning needles and pen knives. Make your own by folding in half one sheet of 9"x 11" brown or tan construction paper. Then fold 3 or 4 sheets of 8 1/2"x 11" white copy paper in half, and insert these inside the folded construction paper "cover."

Using a paper punch, make holes on the left side through all the sheets of paper. 2 to 4 holes can be made depending on the type of paper punch used. Use string, twine or yarn to tie the pages together.

Instead of pen and ink, use an eraserless pencil (students would not have had erasers) to copy spelling words from *The Secret School*, a poem from a book, or maxims your teacher recites. Memorize one of these for recitation in front of the class. Make sure to write your name and date on the cover.