


Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
The Secret Valley				
chap. 1 	chap. 2	chap. 3	chap. 4	

Day 1

The Secret Valley | Chapter 1

Setting

A wagon train, 1849, and California during the Gold Rush.

Overview

After traveling to California, the Davis family pans for gold. Months go by with no luck, so, on the tip of friendly Father John, the family travels to the Secret Valley. They find no gold there, but decide to stay anyway, in the beautiful, peaceful setting.

To Discuss After You Read

Q: What does everyone in the family want?


A: *Ellen wants a garden with flowers and food plants; Frank wants land with good grass for sheep and cows; Mother wants a house with a good roof and glass windows; Father wants to find gold, to pay for his family's wishes*

Q: Will the family travel to California on their own?

A: *no, they go with a wagon train, so the families can help one another*

Note: The Timeline and Map Activities are included for those using BookShark's History program. Please refer to **Section Four** of your History Instructor's Guide for instructions on how to complete these activities. The map answer key is located just before the Week 1 Schedule.

Timeline and Map Activities

 *Missouri River (E7); California (E1); Sutter's Mill (D1); St. Joseph, Missouri (D7) (map 1)*

Day 2

The Secret Valley | Chapter 2

To Discuss After You Read

Q: Were the Indians kind?

A: *yes—they wanted to trade, but since the settlers didn't want to trade, the settlers fed the Indians instead*

Day 3

The Secret Valley | Chapter 3

To Discuss After You Read

Q: Did the settlers have enough to eat?

A: *yes—they had buffalo meat and fish, and once even wild strawberries*

Q: Why were Frank and Ellen thirsty?

A: *they crossed the desert and there was not enough water for the animals and the people*


Day 4

The Secret Valley | Chapter 4

To Discuss After You Read

Q: What is a tent city?

A: *a town where most of the people live in tents* ■

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
6	7	8	9	10
The Secret Valley				
chap. 5	chap. 6 	chaps. 7–8	chap. 9	

Day 1

The Secret Valley | Chapter 5

To Discuss After You Read

Q: Where does Nugget go? Why?

A: *the children let Miss Polly take the cat to Miss Polly's younger sister; her sister was sick and missed her cat, the children thought Nugget would encourage her*

Day 2

The Secret Valley | Chapter 6

To Discuss After You Read

Q: Why are there many ships in San Francisco?

A: *the sailors all jumped ship so they could look for gold*

Q: How did Mr. Davis stake his claim?

A: *he left his shovel overnight; as long as his shovel stays at the site, people know to let him be*

Timeline and Map Activities

 San Francisco (E1) (map 1)

Day 3

The Secret Valley | Chapters 7–8

To Discuss After You Read

Q: What does Frank find in the river? [chap. 7]

A: *a large gold nugget*

Q: How did Mr. Davis spend his nugget? [chap. 8]

A: *he paid the men who helped him work*

Day 4

The Secret Valley | Chapter 9

To Discuss After You Read

Q: What are Mr. and Mrs. Davis' thoughts about where they live?

A: *Mrs. Davis knows that not everyone finds gold; Mr. Davis continues to hope that he will be one of the fortunate ones ■*

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
11	12	13	14	15
The Secret Valley				
chap. 10	chaps. 11–12			
The Chalk Box Kid				
		chap. 1	chap. 2	

Day 1

The Secret Valley | Chapter 10

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: When the family moved their tent, did they move to a good spot?
 A: *no—they were surprised by a flood in the middle of the night*

Day 2

The Secret Valley | Chapters 11–12

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Do Frank and his father find gold in the Secret Valley? Why did Father John send them there? [chap. 11]
 A: *no; he knew it could be a good place for the family*
- Q: Is there gold in the Secret Valley? [chap. 12]
 A: *yes: Miss Polly gives them some because she is grateful her sister got better; there is gold in the flowers, in the sunshine, and on their cat's fur*

Day 3

The Chalk Box Kid | Chapter 1

Setting

A new home and school.

Overview

Gregory's family moves after his father gets a new job. Gregory has a hard time adjusting to his new home and school, but when he finds a burned-out, abandoned

warehouse next door, he has a place of his own. Then Mr. Hiller, who owns a nursery, offers plants and seeds to Gregory's class. Gregory has no place to grow crops, but he wants a garden, and so he creates one out of chalk in the warehouse.

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What did Gregory do on his birthday?
 A: *stay with Aunt Grace all day*
- Q: What turns the disappointing birthday into the best one ever?
 A: *he gets a room of his own*

Day 4

The Chalk Box Kid | Chapter 2

To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Describe Uncle Max.
 A: *twenty years old, with a red beard; he plays the guitar and makes up songs; usually unemployed; he thinks he is important and no one else is*
- Q: Why does Gregory no longer have a room?
 A: *Uncle Max takes over his room* ■