

Progress Monitoring Probe 7

Grandma Moses

Anna Mary Roberts was born long ago in New York. For most of her life, Anna worked very hard making a living on a farm. Then, when she was in her seventies, she began to paint. Before long, people around the world had heard of this elderly woman and her delightful artworks. They began to refer to her as Grandma Moses.

As a child, Anna didn't have a formal education in school. In fact, she had to leave her parents' farm when she was only twelve to work for another family. Later, she married a farmer and worked with him to earn a living while also raising five children. After her husband died, Anna began to create colorful embroidered scenes on canvas. However, as her hands grew stiff with age, this kind of sewing became painful. She decided to switch to painting instead, using house paint to paint the scenes. At first, she copied scenes from postcards, but later she began painting scenes from her childhood.

When Anna was almost eighty years old, she displayed some of her artwork in a drugstore in her town. The paintings were spotted by an art collector, who recognized Anna's remarkable talent. He drove to Anna's farm and bought all the paintings she had on hand. A few months later, three of her paintings were exhibited in a well-known art museum in New York City.

People loved looking at the old-fashioned scenes that Anna had created. They also learned what life was like in earlier times. For example, the painting called *Over the Bridge to Grandma's House* shows people going over a bridge in a horse-drawn sleigh in winter. Details in the painting show a boy on a sled, cows eating hay, and a landscape dotted with houses and barns. The

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Grandma Moses (Continued)

painting *Haying Time* shows farmers busy at work cutting grass and loading it on wagons. Grandma Moses probably loved creating her paintings as much as people enjoyed looking at them. She lived to be over a hundred years old and even in the last year of her life, she painted twenty-five paintings.

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Total words: _____ – errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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