



Pushing the Limits of Persistence

Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

To persist is to endure. To last over time - even against the odds. Examples are everywhere: A persistent person weathers physical, emotional, or environmental setbacks and keeps trying. Elements that persist in the world around us connect us to a certain place, to an event, or to our past. We can read history in canyons carved by unstoppable rivers. Enduring artifacts and memories can wrench or lift our hearts. Put simply, PERSISTENCE expands the human experience in myriad ways.

Waiting on the Bounty

Mary Knackstedt Dyck, Nonfiction. Though she had only a fifth-grade education, Mary Knackstedt Dyck faithfully kept a diary. Written with pencil on lined notebook paper, her daily notations tell the story of farm life on the far western border of Kansas during the grim Dust Bowl years. Manuscript diaries from this era and region are extremely rare, and those written by farm women are even more so. From the point of view of a wife, mother, and partner in the farming enterprise, Dyck recorded the everyday events as well as the frustrations of living with drought and dust storms and the sadness of watching one's children leave the farm.

A remarkable historical document, the diary describes a period in this century before the telephone and indoor plumbing were commonplace in rural homes - a time when farm families in the Plains states were isolated from world events and radio provided an enormously important link between farmsteads and the world at large. *Waiting on the Bounty* brings us unusual insights into the agricultural and rural history of the United States, detailing the tremendous changes affecting farming families and small towns during the Great Depression. abebooks.com

- Was there anything in this book that resonates with your own life?
- Did this book make you think about your own relationship to the land? How so?
- Do you keep a diary? Was the format of this book effective for you?

