

The following content will be used for items 1 - 2.

Here is a poem about a goat. Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

## April

by Yvor Winters

The little goat  
crops  
new grass lying down  
leaps up eight inches  
into air and  
lands on four feet.  
Not a tremor—  
solid in the  
spring and serious  
he walks away.

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The following content will be used for items 3 - 8.

Here is a passage that describes how a family traveled to Colorado and set up a ranch. Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## Jacob's Story



"Daddy, tell about how you came to Colorado on the covered wagon!" said Toby.

"Snuggle down, and don't wake your brothers and sisters," said Jacob. "You've heard that story a thousand times."

"I want to hear it again," begged Toby. "Tell about the covered wagon, and the family, and starting the big ranch!"

Jacob sighed. "Close your eyes."

Toby closed his eyes, but they sometimes fluttered open.

"I was just your size that summer," Jacob began. "Like a lot of families that were traveling west to begin new lives, the family had decided to leave Missouri and move to Colorado. I had never been away from home."

"You were scared, weren't you, Daddy?"

"I was frightened. But the family protected me. If we came to a river, and the wagon was pulled across, they carried me on horseback to keep me safe. Sometimes food was scarce, but they made sure I had enough. One time, we stopped in a little town and the family unloaded everything they could sell or leave behind, and I was worried that they might leave me behind. When we started off again, however, they made certain I was safe in the wagon."

"By the time we reached Colorado, I was full grown. We had only the little sod house then. All that long, snowy winter, I slept inside where it was warm and comfortable."

"Then the cattle arrived," yawned Toby.

"Cowboys herded cattle into the pasture near the sod house. Something awakened in me when I saw and smelled the cattle. I remembered, somehow, what my father and grandfather had done with cattle."

"And me too, someday?" whispered Toby.

"Yes, someday. I helped move the cattle to grazing land, and helped bring them home. I alerted the family whenever I sensed danger—snakes, wolves, cougars...."

Jacob looked down at Toby, who usually said something at this part of the story. But tonight Toby had fallen fast asleep, cuddled tightly with the other puppies. Jacob yawned and stretched, then scratched himself behind one ear. He was an old dog, and it had been a busy day on the ranch.