

“In My Jacket Pocket....”

Imagine that you are living in Ohio in the 1860's. Your parents have decided to come west seeking a better life. They explain to you and your brother and sister that you'll be traveling in a wagon train with many other families. You will be traveling in a covered wagon or prairie schooner. In that wagon you'll need to pack all of your family's possessions, plus food, medicine, tools, and water for the trip. You and your parents go through the house deciding what furniture, tools, and household goods will fit in the wagon, and what must be left behind.

You look around at your personal possessions and wonder, “What about them?” When you ask your parents, they reply sadly, “The wagon will be filled with those things we need to survive and start a new home. There will be no stores where we are going in the Arizona Territory.” Then your father says to you, “The only possessions you can take are those you can carry in your jacket pockets.”

Think about this carefully for a while. What things mean the most to you? Then write about what things you would take and why you are taking them.

In my jacket pocket I would take _____

