

# QUICK CARD: LITTLE BRITCHES



Reference	<i>Little Britches</i> . Ralph Moody. (1950) ISBN-13: 978-0803281783
Plot	When the Moody family moves to a rural homestead in Colorado in hopes that the environment will improve father's health, Little Britches, the only son in the family, must learn to work and behave like a man.
Setting	1906-1908; a ranch near Denver, Colorado
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Britches – 8 year old Ralph Moody, the second child and oldest boy in the family</li> <li>• Father – Struggles with lung problems. Hard working and upright man of the house</li> <li>• Mother – “Mame” Contends for the character of her children</li> <li>• Grace, Philip, Muriel, and Hal – Ralph’s siblings</li> <li>• Hi – Hiram Beckman, a cowboy from a neighboring ranch whom Ralph hero worships</li> <li>• Two Dog and Mr. Thompsons – distant neighbors of the Moodys</li> <li>• Mr. Aultman and family – the Moodys’ nearest neighbors and good friends</li> <li>• Mr. Purdy, Miss Upson and the Principal – teachers and administrators of the local schools</li> <li>• Mr and Mrs. Corcoran – stingy neighbors who employ Ralph for a time</li> <li>• Mr. Cooper – the ranchman who hires Ralph to help on the ranch .</li> </ul>
Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man v. Himself – Ralph battles his own nature to become a man of virtue</li> <li>• Man v. Man – The Moodys endure conflicts with selfish and violent men</li> <li>• Man v. Nature – The Moodys battle natural disasters</li> </ul>
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of character</li> <li>• The significance of a father</li> <li>• The idea of a “good man”</li> <li>• “A man with a ruined character is a shame on the face of the earth” (p. 41)</li> </ul>
Literary Devices	Imagery/Metaphor – the “character house”