

A Ranch in a Box

Thursday, April 19

Today I started work on my book report about *The Mystery at Red Lily Ranch*. It is a long novel, about 300 pages. Right now, it is my favorite book. I decided to build a model of Red Lily Ranch in a cardboard box. I found some brown clay and shaped it into a fence for the cattle. I set a couple of plastic cows inside the fence. My brother let me borrow one of his toy metal trucks. It looks just like the pick-up truck that belongs to Max and his dad in the story.

My favorite part of the book is when Max gets out of the truck to give a signal to Ella. He pretends to check the left rear tire. He does this right in front of the evil robbers. They have no idea what he is doing. Ella is in the cottonwood tree, drawing with a pad and pencil. When she sees Max at the tire, she knows the robbers are going to try to travel across the river that night. The kids have to wait until the robbers go inside the ranch house for dinner. The truck is broken, so they steal a horse and ride to town to warn the sheriff. The horse has no saddle so it is a hard trip. One bad thing happens after another. I liked the book because I never knew what was going to happen next, even at the start of the final chapter.

I want to show Max giving the signal to Ella. I plan to make the tree out of clay. But I have no idea how to make the kids and robbers. It is a good thing I have a week left to finish this project.