

An April Hike

at

BLACKACRE



Our hike started at the Nature Center.

We began by walking down the gravel road  
by the old stone wall and broken down  
wagon.

As we walk, there are signs of spring  
all around.

April is a spring month. Some flowers only bloom this time of year.

The daffodils are gone but now we can see Virginia bluebells and dwarf phlox.

There are other ways to tell it is spring. Some trees have flowers on them. The redbud trees are very beautiful.

This time of year the weather is sometimes warm and sometimes wintry. Here's how it feels today.

As we go down the gravel road we come to a wooden bridge. There is a stream running under it.

Looking into the water we can see  
minnows and water striders.

There is usually a lot of rain in the spring. It flows into the streams.

Walking on down the road there is a meadow on the right and a pasture on the left.

In the meadow we can see tall grass  
and sunny open spaces.

In the pasture the grass is kept short  
by cows grazing.

A little further down the road we  
walk into a shady place where tall  
trees are growing.

The trees are starting to get new leaves that are a fresh green color.

We cross another wooden bridge. This stream is smaller.

We left the gravel road and walked up  
a small path.

At the top of the hill we get a surprise. Jackson's Pond pops into view.

The pond is surrounded by trees. A dock gives us a place to stand and look for fish.

The water feels very cold, but the spring sunshine has warmed it enough to bring the animals to life.

When we look closely we see insects  
on the water, and dragonflies over the  
water.

The pond is filled with a green plant called algae. The algae is food for fish, frogs, and turtles.

Another kind of plant in the pond is  
cattails.

There is a path going all the way  
around the pond.

In the mud, near the water's edge we may see animal tracks.

Deer, raccoons, ground hogs, and other animals come here to drink.

We leave the pond by a different path  
and walk to the meadow.

The spring rains and sunny days help  
new wildflowers to grow.

We have to cross the stream again to get  
back to the Nature Center.

Blackacre has changed so much since the winter. The animals and plants seem to be waking up after a long winter nap.