

3rd Grade Reading: Sarah Plain and Tall

by Kyla Dufrene

Waxahachie, Texas

C Layer: (79 pts maximum)

Items marked with an asterisk () are REQUIRED.

- *1. Participate in class readings and chapter discussions. 1 2 3 4 5 (3 pts per day)
2. Write an ad for a newspaper. Pretend you have 2 children. You are a widow or widower and you are looking for a spouse (10 pts)
3. Draw a T-chart comparing the Kansas prairie and the Maine coast (5 pts)
4. Choose 3 wildflowers described in chapter 4. Draw a picture of each and write a description of each including when it blooms, if it has berries, etc. You may use a wildflower field guide to help you. (15 pts)
5. Design and make your own bird. You may choose from the following birds: marshhawk, sea gull, meadowlark, turkey buzzard, or a crow. (15 pts)
6. Seashell poster: Learn about shells from the Maine area. Illustrate at least 3 shells and write 2 facts about seashells on your poster. (10 pts)
- *7. Vocabulary Quiz, chapters 1-3 (10 pts)
- *8. Vocabulary Quiz, chapters 4-6 (10 pts)
- *9. Vocabulary Quiz, chapters 7-9 (10 pts)
10. Choose 10 vocabulary words and make a picture dictionary. (10 pts)
11. Paint a watercolor seascape similar to what Sarah's Maine seascape would look like. (5 pts)
12. Write a one page summary of either Chapters 1-3, Chapters 4-6 or Chapters 7-9. (10 pts)
13. Imagine you are either Caleb or Anna. Write a one page friendly letter to Sarah as that character. Describe your life and share your feelings about Sarah's arrival. (15 pts)

14. After watching the video of Sarah Plain and Tall, draw a Venn diagram to compare the book and the movie. (10 pts)

B Layer: Choose only ONE. 15 points possible.

1. Make a diorama of a Maine coastline. Write 2 paragraphs to answer the following questions. How is the Maine coastline similar to where we live? How it is different?
2. List Sarah's favorite things. Take a poll of 10 classmates, asking them their top 5 favorite things. Compare their favorite things to Sarah's. Show the results in a bar graph.

A Layer: Choose only ONE. 20 points possible.

1. Sarah came to Kansas on the railroad. Which traveling method do you think was the best in 1910? Tell why you think your choice is the best.
2. If the book had a chapter 10, what do you think would happen? Write a 1 page summary of your chapter 10.
3. Do you think life is more complicated or less complicated now than in 1910? Why?

Sarah, Plain and Tall

Student Study Guide

Patricia MacLachlan

Answer all questions in sentence form.

Chapter One

1. What question does Caleb keep asking Anna?
2. Who is Anna?
3. What has happened to their mother?
4. Who is telling the story?
5. Why had Papa placed an advertisement in the newspaper?
6. Find Kansas in an atlas.

Vocabulary: hearth, dusk, dough, wretched.

Enrichment: Pretend you are a widow or widower living on a pioneer farm with your children. Write what you would like to place in an advertisement if you were looking for a spouse.

Chapter Two

1. Read all the letters and describe your favourite one.
2. Who is Jacob?
3. What important message did Papa show his children at the bottom of Sarah's letter?

Vocabulary: braid, flounder, pesky, stall.

Enrichment: Find the state of [Maine](#) in an atlas.

Chapter Three

1. How do we know that Papa is expecting to meet someone special?
2. Why are the children so quiet as they do their chores?
3. How can we tell that Caleb is very young?
4. Mention one or two things that Sarah brought with her from Maine?
5. Why do you think Sarah's hands were rough?
6. What does Anna see in Sarah's face that makes her believe that she might not stay?

Vocabulary: fetch, hawk, clattered, preacher, flax

Enrichment: What is a mail order bride? Research the topic on the internet or in an encyclopedia and find information about it. Do we have such things as mail order brides today?

Chapter Four

1. What did Anna mean when she said that the dogs loved Sarah first?
2. Who were Lottie and Nick?
3. Why was Sarah so sad when she listened to the shell?
4. Why did Caleb lean against Anna?
5. Why did Caleb smile at the name of the flowers hanging from the ceiling?
6. What does *Ayuh* mean?
7. How did Sarah describe the seals?

Vocabulary: scallop, conch, stew, rustle.

Enrichment: Caleb is mentioned often in the story. How does the [author](#) use Caleb in this story? How would the story be different without Caleb?

Chapter Five

1. How do we know that Sarah was a kind and caring person?
2. What were the first words uttered by Caleb, Anna and Sarah?
3. What kind of dune did Papa show them?
4. Why did Caleb smile when Sarah said the words, "our dune"?

Vocabulary: coarse, buzzard, charcoal, dunes, mica, canvas.

Enrichment: Describe the emotions you feel while you are reading this story. How does the author allow you to experience these feelings?

Chapter Six

1. Why did Papa teach Sarah how to plow the fields?
2. How do the children get to school when there is little or no snow?
3. Why does Papa tie a rope from the house to the barn?
4. According to Sarah, how are the barns different in Maine?
5. Why do you think Anna and Caleb never learned to swim?
6. Why is Sarah such a good swimmer?
7. How does Sarah describe the sea?

Vocabulary: plough, sums, collapsed, biscuits, sputter.

Enrichment: Describe the woman's role on the pioneer farm. Is the woman's role different today? Whose job was harder, the man's or the woman's? Why?

Chapter Seven

1. What are they planning to plant in the new fields?
2. Where did the daisies come from that were in Sarah's hair?
3. Why did the chickens fly onto the porch roof?
4. Why did Sarah's eyes fill with tears when she was talking to Maggie?
5. What does Maggie insist that Sarah must have to cheer her up?
6. Why is Anna convinced that Sarah will not eat the chickens?

Vocabulary: porch, whickering, banty, primly, quilt, hitch.

Enrichment: Find information on a [quilting bee](#). What happened at a quilting bee? Do people still hold quilting bees? Bring a [quilt](#) to school to show your friends.

Chapter Eight

1. What was Sarah's response when Caleb said that women don't wear overalls?
2. What does Sarah tell Papa when he mentions that the roof needs fixing?
3. Why does Caleb think that Sarah might want to go to town?
4. How do we know that Anna likes Sarah?
5. What were Sarah and Papa carrying when they returned to the barn doorway, wet to the skin?
6. What does Anna call the hail?

Vocabulary: overalls, crisply, portion, squall, milled.

Enrichment: Pretend that you are Sarah. Write a letter home to your brother, William, describing your new family, home and how you feel about Jacob, Anna and Caleb.

Chapter Nine

1. Describe the scene after the storm.
2. What methods does Caleb suggest to keep Sarah from leaving?
3. Give at least two reasons why you think Sarah is planning to return to the farm.
4. Why did Sarah choose only certain colours when purchasing the pencils?
5. Describe what you liked most about the story.

Vocabulary: groom, sly, hush, scuttling, stern, windbreak, squinted, reins.

Enrichment: Plant your own garden at school with as many flowers as possible that are mentioned in the story. Pretend that you are Anna and write a few entries in a dairy before and after Sarah arrives.

1. What question does Caleb keep asking Anna?
2. Who is Anna?
3. What has happened to their mother?
4. Who is telling the story?
5. Why had Papa placed an advertisement in the newspaper?
6. Find [Kansas](#) in an atlas.
7. Read all the letters and describe your favourite one.
8. Who is Jacob?
9. What important message did Papa show his children at the bottom of Sarah's letter?
10. How do we know that Papa is expecting to meet someone special?
11. Why are the children so quiet as they do their chores?
12. How can we tell that Caleb is very young?
13. Mention one or two things that Sarah brought with her from Maine?
14. Why do you think Sarah's hands were rough?
15. What does Anna see in Sarah's face that makes her believe that she might not stay?
16. What did Anna mean when she said that the dogs loved Sarah first?
17. Who were Lottie and Nick?
18. Why was Sarah so sad when she listened to the shell?
19. Why did Caleb lean against Anna?
20. Why did Caleb smile at the name of the flowers hanging from the ceiling?
21. What does *Ayuh* mean?
22. How did Sarah describe the seals?
23. How do we know that Sarah was a kind and caring person?
24. What were the first words uttered by Caleb, Anna and Sarah?
25. What kind of dune did Papa show them?
26. Why did Caleb smile when Sarah said the words, "our dune"?
27. Why did Papa teach Sarah how to plow the fields?
28. How do the children get to school when there is little or no snow?
29. Why does Papa tie a rope from the house to the barn?
30. According to Sarah, how are the barns different in Maine?
31. Why do you think Anna and Caleb never learned to swim?
32. Why is Sarah such a good swimmer?
33. How does Sarah describe the sea?
34. What are they planning to plant in the new fields?
35. Where did the daisies come from that were in Sarah's hair?
36. Why did the chickens fly onto the porch roof?
37. Why did Sarah's eyes fill with tears when she was talking to Maggie?
38. What does Maggie insist that Sarah must have to cheer her up?
39. Why is Anna convinced that Sarah will not eat the chickens?
40. What was Sarah's response when Caleb said that women don't wear overalls?
41. What does Sarah tell Papa when he mentions that the roof needs fixing?
42. Why does Caleb think that Sarah might want to go to town?
43. How do we know that Anna likes Sarah?
44. What were Sarah and Papa carrying when they returned to the barn doorway, wet to the skin?
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46. Describe the scene after the storm.
47. What methods does Caleb suggest to keep Sarah from leaving?
48. Give at least two reasons why you think Sarah is planning to return to the farm.
49. Why did Sarah choose only certain colours when purchasing the pencils?
50. Describe what you liked most about the story.

Enrichment: Plant your own garden at school with as many flowers as possible that are mentioned in the story. Pretend that you are Anna and write a few entries in a diary before and after Sarah arrives.

Describe all the adventures Sarah was in a draw a picture of a scenario. Something to do with sea shells. Listen to sea shells.

Pretend that you are Sarah. Write a letter home to your brother, William, describing your new family, home and how you feel about Jacob, Anna and Caleb.