

Sarah, Plain and Tall

Reading Guide

by BJ Lloyd

For the book by Patricia MacLachlan



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***Sarah, Plain and Tall* – A Reading Guide**

for the book by Patricia MacLachlan

INCLUDED IN THIS READING GUIDE

Teacher Resource Section: Additional information is provided for the teacher, as well as questions that may be used to provide thoughtful dialog about each chapter.

Chapter Worksheets: Included in this reading comprehension booklet are chapter worksheets, with two questions for every chapter of the book. The questions on each sheet are designed to highlight key concepts or events that take place in that particular chapter. It is not necessary that a student complete each chapter worksheet in this booklet. A teacher *may* want to assign every worksheet as the student reads through the book, or just pick and assign a couple of worksheets in order to assess the student's comprehension. In the later case, the teacher may use the other worksheets as an aid for oral discussions. A recommended Grading Guide is provided on the next page.

Memory Quiz: A quiz over one chapter is provided to assess the student's memory and ability to express the answer in a complete sentence. The quiz consists of 6 questions for the teacher to orally give the student. The student should be given advance notice that the memory quiz will be given over a particular chapter, and he should read it several times in order to know it thoroughly. This test is to be graded using the same criteria as the chapter worksheets, but spelling should not count against the student, as he does not have access to the book.

Open Book Test: There is a comprehension test to administer after finishing the book. The student has the ability to look up answers in this open book test. This test is comprised of 3 parts and should be graded as follows:

1. **Matching Section-** each item is worth ONE point.
2. **Fill in the Blank-** each blank is worth ONE point.

3. **Short Answer**- each answer is worth SIX points. It should be graded using the same criteria as the worksheets for the individual chapters. (See the Grading Guide on the next page.)

student should be given a Spelling Grade, because the book and a Word Bank are available to use for help with spelling.

Answer Keys: An answer key is provided for the worksheets, Memory Quiz, and the Open Book Test. These answers contain the main element needed in order to answer the question correctly.

GENERAL TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Restating the Question in the Answer

The student should be taught to restate the question in the answer. Here is an example of restating:

“What is the title of this book?”

The answer should be:

“The title of this book is *Babe: The Gallant Pig*.”

Unacceptable answers would be: “*Babe: The Gallant Pig*” or “It is *Babe: The Gallant Pig*”.

The student should also be taught it is never proper to answer a question with a Subject Pronoun.

Grading Guide for Reading Comprehension and Spelling on the Worksheets

In order to provide high standards for quality work and integration of skills:

- Reading Grade:

Each comprehension question on a worksheet is worth **six points**.

1 point for beginning the answer with a capital letter.

1 point for ending the answer with an end mark.

1 point for restating the question (using words from the question) and making sense.

3 points available for the correct answer. 3 points-correct with effort. 2 or 1-partially correct. 0-wrong answer. This allows for the teacher to give partial credit for an answer that is not completely correct.

The student’s answer must begin with a capital letter, have an end mark, be restated and make sense, and, of course, be correct.

- Spelling Grade:

The students have the reading book and the reading worksheet from which to glean the answers. Therefore, they should spell the words in their answer correctly.

Starting from 100%, deduct 2 points for each misspelled word.

Misspelled also means dotted i's, j's, crossed t's, x's, capitals on proper names, apostrophes on contractions and possessives, AND mistakes in formation of letters.

***Sarah, Plain and Tall* - Teacher Resource**

Before starting the book:

1. Find the title page. What is the title of this book? Who is the author? Who is the illustrator?
2. Find the page with the list of other books by Patricia MacLachlan. Have you ever read any other books by this author? Have you watched the movie of *Sarah, Plain and Tall*?
3. This book does not have a contents page. How many chapters are in this book?
4. For whom did the author write this book?
5. Is this book an autobiography, biography, nonfiction or a work of fiction?
6. This book is a Newbery Honor Book. Every year one John Newbery medal is awarded to an author for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. In what year was this book written?

Chapter 1

- Discuss the point-of-view of the story. The author is writing from the point-of-view of one of the characters, Anna. How can we tell?
- Anna said that it took her three days to love Caleb after he was born. Why? -- Her mother died in childbirth. Was it Caleb's fault that Mama dies? Explain that God knows the number of our days, and it is His will when we die.
- Explain how men in the underpopulated West would advertise for wives since there were not many single women living there.
- Why did Caleb tell Papa to ask if she sings? --He was hoping that she would sing like Mama used to.
- Define *hearth* and *hearthstone*. --The floor of a fireplace, and often extending a short distance into a room.
- Define *hearthstone*. --The stone forming a hearth.

Chapter 2

- Caleb was worried that Sarah would think that they were loud and pesky, and that the house was too small. Anna worried that Sarah loved the sea and wouldn't come. What should they do to relieve their worries? --Pray and trust God for the outcome.
- Define *plain*.

Chapter 3

- Everyone was trying to impress Sarah. Have the students tell what each of the characters did to get ready for her.
- Explain that everyone was busy trying to make things look good on the *outside*, but what counts is what is on the *inside*. Caleb had it right when he said that Sarah would like them because they're nice.

Chapter 4

- Point out that Sarah says some words differently than the rest of the family (Ayuh, "soomer"). Why does she speak differently? Give examples of words that may be pronounced differently in different parts of the country.

Chapter 5

- Caleb keep looking for clues that Sarah is staying. What clue did he find in this chapter? ---She said, "Our dune."

Chapter 6

- Explain that children only go to school in the winter because they are busy with the farm during the other seasons. They also continued learning at home by reading books at home. --There were no TV's, computers, and electronic devices.

Sarah, Plain and Tall

Chapters 1 and 2

Reading _____ (23) Name _____

Spelling _____ (x2) Date _____

Short Answer: Answer each question. Remember to restate the question in the answer. Spelling counts, so use your book!

Chapter 1

1. What were Mama's last words to Anna?

2. List five things that Sarah writes to describe herself. (Do not use sentences.)

1) _____ 4) _____

2) _____ 5) _____

3) _____

Chapter 2

3. What did Sarah send to Anna along with her letter?

4. Why did Papa smile after reading Sarah's letter?

Sarah, Plain and Tall

Chapters 1 and 2

Reading _____ (23)

Spelling _____ (x2)

Answer Key

Short Answer: Answer each question. Remember to restate the question in the answer. Spelling counts, so use your book!

Chapter 1

1. What were Mama's last words to Anna?

_____ Mama's last words to Anna were "Isn't he
_____ beautiful, Anna?" _____

2. List five things that Sarah writes to describe herself. (ONLY FIVE ARE NEEDED.)

- 1) from Maine _____ 6) loves to live by the sea _____
2) never been married _____ 7) strong _____
3) lives with an older brother _____ 8) works hard _____
4) willing to travel _____ 9) not mild mannered _____
5) has a cat _____ 10) interested in the children and where they live

Chapter 2

3. What did Sarah send to Anna along with her letter?

_____ Sarah sent Anna a book of sea birds _____
_____ along with her letter. _____

4. Why did Papa smile after reading Sarah's letter?

_____ Papa smiled after reading Sarah's letter _____
_____ because at the bottom of the letter it _____
_____ said, "Tell them I sing." _____