

A
Literature Unit

**Sarah,
Plain and Tall**

by Patricia MacLachlan

Papa asks Sarah, who has answered his ad for a bride, to come live with him and his two children in their prairie home. Sarah agrees to come in the spring and to spend a month. If all goes well, Papa and Sarah will marry in the summer, and Sarah will become part of their family. Caleb and Anna, anxious to again hear the voice of a mother singing, hope she will decide to stay.

In honor of Family Week, read *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.

Chapter 1

Vocabulary: Match the vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

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| ___ 1. hollow | A. inferior in quality |
| ___ 2. hearthstones | B. flat, rolling grassland; plain in central U.S.A. |
| ___ 3. homely | C. dragging one's feet while walking |
| ___ 4. wretched | D. having a re-echoing sound |
| ___ 5. prairie | E. confined; restricted |
| ___ 6. murmured | F. spirited |
| ___ 7. handout | G. stones in floor of fireplace |
| ___ 8. shuffling | H. food, clothing, or money given to a beggar |
| ___ 9. limited | I. whispered |
| ___ 10. feisty | J. not attractive |

Comprehension & Discussion Questions

1. Although Anna loved Caleb, she also resented him. Explain.

2. Why did Caleb want Anna to sing Mama's songs?

3. Why did Papa put an advertisement in the newspaper? Why, do you think, was this necessary?

4. Why was Sarah interested in Jacob's offer?

5. How do you think the children felt about the prospect of having a new mother? Give a reason for your opinion.

Follow-up Activities

1. Personification is the bestowing of human qualities on inanimate objects. Find an example of personification in this chapter.
2. As Anna, Caleb, or Jacob write an entry in your diary describing your feelings at the end of this chapter.

