

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Sarah, Plain and Tall

By Patricia MacLachian
Scholastic Publisher
Winner of Newbery Medal 1985
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Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989*.)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Chapter 1 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

hearthstones (4, 3) stones forming an area in front or floor of a fireplace

dough (5, 4) mixture that consists of flour and milk and is kneaded to make bread

marble slab (5, 4) a thick flat piece or slice of marble

familiar story (4, 4) an everyday occurrence

wretched (7, 5) woeful or grievous

feisty (, 7) Jack was quick to let his temper or impatience show

advertisement (6, 8) a public notice intended to notify or inform people of something

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What question had Caleb asked Anna about for maybe the hundredth time this year? P. 3** He wanted to know whether Mama and Papa sang songs.
- 2. What did Caleb like to reminisce about? P. 4** He loved to talk about when he was born. He wondered about what their mama had said about him.
- 3. What was the worst thing about Caleb being born according to Anna? P. 5** He was homely, plain, smelled, and he hollered. But the worst thing was Mama died the next morning.
- 4. What did Caleb think would help him remember Mama? P. 6** If Anna remembered the songs Mama and Papa sang and if she sang them to him, he might remember Mama.
- 5. What made Papa tell Anna and Caleb about Sarah? P. 7** He told them because Caleb asked Papa why he didn't sing anymore. Papa said he had forgotten the songs but maybe there was a way to remember them.
- 6. What kind of advertisement had Papa placed in newspapers? P. 8** He wanted a wife. He placed an ad just like Matthew had placed in newspapers. After Matthew placed the ad, Maggie had come to be a wife to Matthew and a mother to his children.
- 7. What did Sarah's letter to Jacob Witting say in essence? P. 9** Her brother was to be married, she had always lived by the sea, she would work hard, and she was opinionated about cats and other things. She asked him to write if he was interested.
- 8. What did Anna tell Papa to put in his letter to Sarah? P. 10** "Do you sing?"

Chapter 2 Pp. 11-15

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

flounder (8, 11) a flatfish, important marine food fishes

pesky (, 12) troublesome, causing annoyance

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What did Sarah's letter to Anna say? P. 11** Sarah could braid hair, bake bread, build bookshelves, and paint. Her brother was a fisherman. She loved the colors of the sea.
- 2. Of what was Caleb afraid? P. 12** He was afraid that Sarah would think "they" were loud and pesky. Anna told Caleb that he was loud and pesky.
- 3. What did Seal, Sarah's cat, send in the letter to Caleb? P. 13** a footprint
- 4. To what question did Anna, Caleb, and Papa all answer yes? P. 14** Sarah asked if she should come for a month to see if everyone liked the arrangement.
- 5. When Sarah sent her last letter, what did she write at the bottom? P. 15** "Tell them I sing."

Student's Guide

Chapter 1 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary

hearthstones (3)

bread **dough** (4)

marble **slab** (4)

familiar story (4)

wretched (5)

Jack was **feisty** (7)

advertisement (8)

Comprehension Questions

1. What question had Caleb asked Anna about for maybe the hundredth time this year? P. 3
2. What did Caleb like to reminisce about? P. 4
3. What was the worst thing about Caleb being born according to Anna? P. 5
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Chapter 2 Pp. 11-15

Vocabulary

flounder (11)

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Student's Workbook

Chapter 1 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary

marble slab (4) _____

wretched (5) _____

advertisement (8) _____

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Chapter 2 Pp. 11-15

Vocabulary

flounder (11) _____

pesky (12) _____

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Teacher's Workbook Key

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them I sing."

Key Questions

Key Questions

Answer these question in sentences.

Name _____

Chapter 1. What was the worst thing about Caleb being born according to Anna? _____

Chapter 2. What was Caleb afraid of about Sarah meeting him? _____

Chapter 3. What question did Caleb ask that he answered himself after he asked it? _____

Chapter 4. What did Sarah do with the clipped hair from Jacob and Caleb after she gave them both haircuts? _____

Chapter 5. What did the four of them use for sand dunes? _____

Key Questions Answer Key

Name _____

Answer the following questions in sentences. Please write legibly using correct spelling and grammar.

Chapter 1. What was the worst thing about Caleb being born according to Anna?

Mama died the next morning.

Chapter 2. What was Caleb afraid of about Sarah meeting him?

She would think he was loud and pesky.

Chapter 3. What question did Caleb ask that he answered himself after he asked it?

He answered, of course, she will like us, we are nice.

Chapter 4. What did Sarah do with the clipped hair from Jacob and Caleb after she gave them both haircuts?

She scattered the curls so they could look for them in bird's nests.

Chapter 5. What did the four of them use for sand dunes?

They used the haystack to slid down.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ **Meaning:** _____

2. _____ **Meaning:** _____

3. _____ **Meaning:** _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
