

# **Sarah, Plain and Tall**

## Summer Reading Activities

Directions: Read the book Sarah, Plain and Tall and complete the activities that go along with the story as you read. Remember to write your answers in complete sentences and use your best cursive handwriting. If you don't have enough space, you may go on the back or use a separate sheet of paper.

### Part I: Vocabulary

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words listed below.

1. eager:

2. feisty:

3. prairie:

4. coarse:

5. bonnet:

6. suspenders:

7. hearthstone:

8. advertise:

9. squall:

10. dune:

## Part II: Comprehension

After you read each chapter, answer these questions in complete sentences and in your best cursive handwriting.

### CHAPTER 1

1. Where does the story take place? (Setting)
2. What question does Caleb ask his sister over and over? Why do you think he keeps asking this question?
3. Anna tells Caleb about the day he was born. Does the story she tells him show her true feelings about that day? Why or why not?
4. What changed Anna's feelings about Caleb a few days after he was born?
5. What news does Papa tell the children after dinner? How do each of them react to his news?
6. List three things that Sarah tells Mr. Witting in her letter.
7. What question did Caleb what his father to ask Sarah in his next letter?

## CHAPTER 2

1. Why do you think it was important for Mr. Witting, Anna and Caleb to write letters to Sarah?
2. Do you think that Mr. Witting would have allowed Sarah to visit them if the children had not agreed? Why?
3. What is the answer to Caleb's question from chapter 2?

## CHAPTER 3

1. In what season does Sarah arrive?
2. Why do you think Mr. Witting, Anna and Caleb were worried about how they looked on the day Sarah arrived?
3. What did the children do to keep busy while their dad went to pick Sarah up at the train station?
4. What did Sarah bring as gifts for the children?

## CHAPTER 4

1. List three things that Sarah told the Wittings about her family back in Maine.
2. Why did Sarah scatter Caleb's hair trimmings on the ground around the fence?

## CHAPTER 5

1. How did Sarah feel about the lambs? How do you know what she is feeling?
2. What was the dune that Pap showed Sarah made of? Did she like it?
3. What kind of pictures did Sarah draw to send back her brother William? What did she use to draw them?

## CHAPTER 6

1. What are the winters like on the farm?
2. What did Sarah, Caleb and Anna do at the cow pond?

## CHAPTER 7

1. What did Maggie and Matthew bring for Sarah when they visited?
2. What did Maggie and Sarah talk about?
3. How does Anna know that Sarah will not use the chickens for food?

## CHAPTER 8

1. What two things does Sarah learn to do?
2. Why were Anna and Caleb worried about Sarah going to town alone?

## CHAPTER 9

1. How does Caleb react when Sarah returned home?
2. What does Sarah bring from town?

# Summer Reading: You Pick!

For the second part of your summer reading requirements, you can choose the book! The following list consists of recommendations from many genres and from varying reading levels.

We ask that you choose ONE book from this list. OR, if you are interested in reading something not on this list, that is fine, too, as long as it is at your grade level. PLEASE do not read a book that you have already read. Choose something new and perhaps a different genre than you usually read.

**After you read your book, complete the attached “Book Bag” activity. We will share our Book Bags when we return to school.**

## Summer Reading Suggestions

The Contest: Everest #1 by Gordon Korman

The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden

The Misadventures of Maude March by Audrey Coulombis

Beezus and Ramona by Beverly Cleary

The Great Brain by John D. Fitzgerald

Bone #1: Out from Boneville by Jeff Smith or any from the Bone series (graphic novel-great for visual learners)

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney (any book from series)

Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan (any book from series)

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar

Love that Dog by Sharon Creech

The School Story by Andrew Clements

The Kane Chronicles series by Rick Riordan (any book from series)

The Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald (any book from series)

The Dork Diaries series by Rachel Renee Russell (any book from series)

100 Cupboards series by N.D. Wilson (any book from series)

The Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart (any book from series)

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling (any book from series)

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

# What's in your Book Bag?

1. Using the attached chart, fill in information pertaining to the story elements listed from the book that you chose. You may use lists, bullet points, or abbreviations as needed so you can fit your information in the box. Be short and sweet. If you need more space you can always write on the back of a separate sheet of paper.

2. For each element, choose an object to represent it. For example: if I were reading *The Three Little Pigs*, I might choose a stuffed pig as the object to represent my characters. Or, perhaps if the character is strong, you may choose a rock to represent her.

If there is more than one character, setting, problem, event, etc. you can choose one object to represent all of them or you may choose just one character or one setting to represent with an object.

3. Give a reason as to why you chose each item.

4. Collect the objects (may be household items, things you already own, things you draw or make yourself—all will be returned and money need not be spent!) and place them in a bag of your choice (brown bag, grocery bag, cloth bag, cinch sack...any type!) The type of bag could also represent your story, too!

You will use the items in your bag to retell the story to the class when we return to school.

Be creative! You can get as imaginative as you wish in choosing your objects as long as there is a good explanation for why you picked it! Have fun with it!

# \_\_\_\_\_’s Book Bag

(your name here)

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Story Element	Description of Story Element	Bag Item You Chose	Why You Chose It
<b>Character(s)</b> List the characters in your story.			
<b>Setting</b> Where did the story take place? (may be more than 1)			
<b>Problem(s)</b> What conflict(s) did the characters face?			
<b>Events</b> List 3-5 main events that occurred in the story.			
<b>Solution</b> How did the character(s) solve the problem?			

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Math

Summer vacation is a time for fun, rest, and relaxation, but it is also time to keep your mind sharp, especially when it comes to math skills, so you are ready to go in 4<sup>th</sup> grade next school year!

I am asking you to complete 500 minutes of math activities this summer. These can be completed by participating in any of the following activities and then logging your minutes and the type of activity on the attached log. You may certainly complete more than 500 minutes!

The minutes you put into these math activities will go toward your first math grade of the year. Here is how I will grade it:

500-460 minutes = A  
459-410 minutes = B  
409-350 minutes = C  
349-320 minutes = D  
< 320 minutes = F

There are many options to choose from, but your log must reflect that you tried each of these activities at least 2 times. For example, you cannot earn ALL of your minutes by using First in Math. When you choose games and activities, focus on multiplication and division, money, fractions, measurement, and geometry. Here are your options:

- 1) First in Math: [www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com) Use your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade username and password
- 2) Cool Math: [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com) Try Fraction Splat, Number Monster, and Lemonade Stand among others!
- 3) Math Playground: [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com) Choose Math Games I or II
- 4) Fun Brain: [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) Visit the Math Arcade
- 5) Arcademic Skill Builders: [www.arcademicskillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com) Focus on any math concepts, especially multiplication, division, money, time, and fractions.

**\*\*Alternate Choice\*\*** There are many FREE math-related apps for iPhones, iPods, and iPads out there. If you have one of these devices and have permission from your parents, you may practice your skills using these free apps and count that toward your minute total. On the next page, I have a list of FREE apps you can try.

Your log is due on the first day of school. Work hard and have fun!

# Free Math Apps

for iPhone, iPad, and iPod

All of these math apps are FREE at this time. Please be sure to check when you are downloading that they are still FREE as sometimes prices change. Always check with your parents before downloading anything.

1. Rocket Math
2. My Math Flash Cards App
3. Pizza Fractions: Beginning with Simple Fractions
4. Mad Math Lite
5. Math Drills Lite
6. Math Kid
7. Kids Math Lite
8. Clockmaster
9. Counting Coins (k12)
10. Bills and Coins (k12)



\*Feel free to make copies of this sheet if you need more space. It is also available in an electronic format to print from the school web site.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Work Checklist**

Use this checklist to keep track of what you've done and what you have left to do! It will help you to see if you've completed everything you need to do before you return to school in August.

### **Reading:**

- Read Sarah, Plain and Tall \_\_\_\_\_
- Complete vocab and questions \_\_\_\_\_
- Read second book of your choice \_\_\_\_\_
- Complete Book Bag Sheet \_\_\_\_\_
- Fill Book Bag with items \_\_\_\_\_
- Log summer reading minutes \_\_\_\_\_  
on Scholastic.com for reading challenge

### **Math:**

- Use various web sites to complete math minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- Log math minutes on included log/get signed \_\_\_\_\_

### **Be Sure to Bring to School:**

- \*Sarah, Plain and Tall book
- \*Reading question packet
- \*Book Bag Worksheet
- \*Book Bag with items included inside

\*Math minute log (signed!)