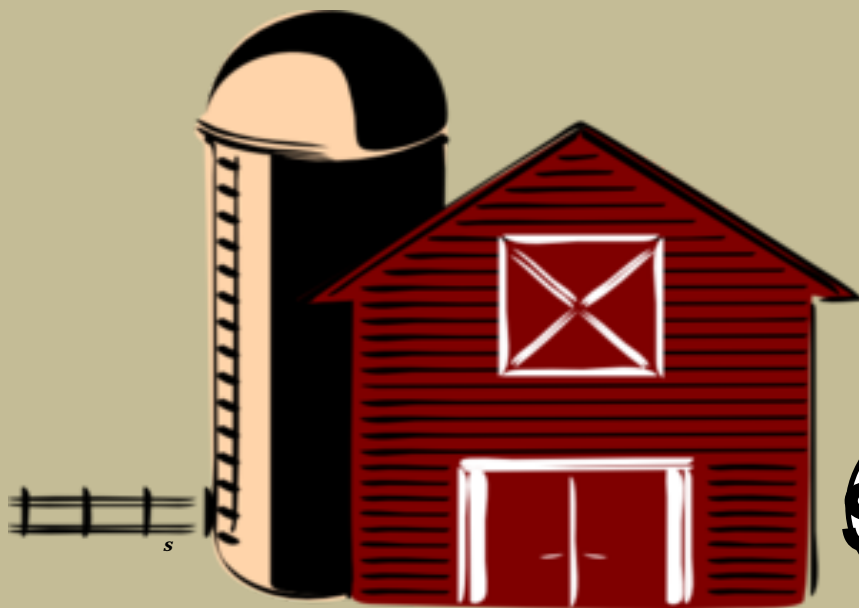


***A Teaching Unit
For
Sarah, Plain and Tall***

by Patricia MacLachlan



Sample



ELA Core Plans
Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Sample Teaching Unit for Sarah, Plain and Tall

By Patricia MacLachlan

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Sarah, Plain and Tall

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Chapter 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Characters in a story are the people or animals involved in the plot. Complete the following chart by jotting down a description of who each character is. The first one has been done for you.

Character	Character Description
Anna	the narrator Caleb's older sister Anna was there when Caleb was born. She tells Caleb stories about their mother.
Caleb	
Jacob Witting	
Jack	
Lottie and Nick	
Sarah	

The setting of a story is the time and place when and where the story takes place. The reader often has to look for clues when reading to figure out the setting. Complete the following chart by reading the passages on the left side and answering the questions on the right.

Clues for the setting	What this tells the reader
<i>Outside, the prairie reached out and touched the places where the sky came down.</i>	Where does the family live?
<i>Though winter was nearly over, there were patches of snow and ice everywhere.</i>	What season is it?
<i>They had come for her in a wagon and taken her away to be buried.</i>	What from this passage lets the reader know that this book takes place a long time ago?

The Plot of a story is what happens. It is centered around a **conflict** or problem.

1. What is the problem in this story?

2. What is happening right now in the story so that this problem can be solved?

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Chapter 6

Name: _____ Date: _____

A **simile** is a figure of speech that compares two things using the words *like* or *as*. We can use similes to make descriptions more vivid or to make descriptions stand out.

Vivid Original Similes

Any writer can use a common simile that everyone has heard before. A good writer, however, creates similes that are original and fresh to surprise the reader and make him/her think!

Underline the similes in the following three sentences. Then, rate the following similes from one to three – one being the most original and three being the least original.

1. _____ She tried to teach us how to float. I sank like a bucket filled with water and came up sputtering.

What is being compared in the simile? _____

2. _____ But Caleb lay on his back and learned how to blow streams of water high in the air like a whale.

What is being compared in the simile? _____

3. _____ “The sea is salt,” said Sarah. “It stretches out as far as you can see. It gleams like the sun on glass. There are waves.. .”

What is being compared in the simile? _____

Now, let’s try creating similes! Complete the following sentences from this chapter making up your own similes.

She tried to teach us how to float. I sank *like*

But Caleb lay on his back and learned how to blow streams of water high in the air *like*

It gleams *like*

Recalling

What reasons does Anna give for liking winter so much? _____

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14. What is being compared in the following simile?

The dandelions in the fields had gone by, their heads soft as feathers.

- a. dandelions and a field
- b. a field to a head
- c. dandelion heads to feathers
- d. nothing is being compared

15. Who is Jacob?

- a. Sarah's brother
- b. Anna and Caleb's neighbor
- c. Anna and Caleb's teacher
- d. Anna and Caleb's father

“A squall!” he yelled to us... “Get the horses inside...the barn is the safest.”

The grasses flattened. There was a hiss of wind, a sudden pungent smell.

16. Based on context clues in the above sentences, we know that a squall is _____.

- a. a scream
- b. a cry
- c. a sudden strong storm
- d. a short commotion

17. Which sentence has a simile in it?

- a. We stared out the window, watching ice marbles bounce on the ground.
- b. And when it was over we opened the barn door and walked out into the early morning light.
- c. The hail crunched and melted beneath our feet.
- d. It was white and gleaming for as far as we looked, like sun on glass.

18. Which character spends time drawing?

- a. Anna
- b. Caleb
- c. Papa
- d. Sarah

19. What type of fiction is this story?

- a. historical
- b. science
- c. a fable
- d. tall tale

20. The main setting in this book is _____.

- a. the seaside
- b. in a small town
- c. on a prairie
- d. at a train station

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