

Name _____

Date _____

Sarah, Plain and Tall: Chapter 1

Vocabulary

You will find these words in today's reading.

hearthstones: (n.) stones that form a fireplace
The *hearthstones* grew warmer as the fire began to roar.

prairie: (n.) a large area of flat land with much grass and few trees
Pioneers found it easier to travel across the grassy *prairie* than the rugged mountains.

cruel: (adj.) mean
It is *cruel* to hurt someone's feelings on purpose.

homely: (adj.) plain
Ginger is a *homely* dog, but she is my best friend.

horrid: (adj.) awful
When I opened the refrigerator, the *horrid* smell of rotten eggs hit me in the face.

colt: (n.) a baby male horse
The *colt* left its mother's side and galloped across the field to play with the other young horses.

Think Ahead

1. Read page 3. Papa says Caleb asks him the same questions over and over again. Why do you think Caleb asks so many questions about his mother and the day he was born?
2. This story takes place more than a hundred years ago. Life was very different for children living during that time. As you read Chapter 1, compare one or two of the characters' problems to

the problems that children face today. Which are the same?
Which are different?

Read

Chapter 1

Discuss

1. Who are the main characters in the story?
2. Who is the narrator—that is, which character is telling the story?
3. What happened to Caleb and Anna’s mother?
4. What was Mama’s special talent that Anna remembers and Caleb wants to remember?
5. What did Anna think of Caleb when he was born?
6. Why did it take Anna three whole days to love Caleb? What made her love him?
7. Who is Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton? What is the one thing the children want to know about her?

Write

Choose one of the following questions and write a response of three or more complete sentences in your Reading Notebook.

1. Why do you think it is so important to Caleb and Anna that Papa remembers the songs their mother sang?
2. Why do you think Papa doesn’t sing anymore?
3. Why do you think Anna describes the day Mama died as “cruel and sunny”?

Assessment

It's time to go to the computer and answer some questions to check your reading.