

## Bookfolio for Sarah, Plain and Tall

Author: [Patricia MacLachlan](#)

First Publication Date: 1985

Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN: 0060241020

Recommended for: [Grades 3-5](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Historical Fiction](#)

**Story Summary:** Anna and Caleb's widowed father surprises them one day by announcing that he has placed an ad for a wife as his neighbor had done. Sarah, a young woman from faraway Maine who had described herself as plain and tall, arrives at the farm with her cat, Seal, and a few reminders of her beloved sea, which she shares with the children. Anna and Caleb respond to Sarah's strong and gentle manner and are overjoyed that there once again is happiness and singing in their small home. Sarah misses the sea but has grown to love the children, Papa, and life on the farm, so preparations are made for a summer wedding.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** Chapters 2 and 3, pages 11-21.

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:  
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Sarah, Plain and Tall - Independent Activities	Skills
1. <a href="#">Language Brings Images to Life</a> (Writing descriptive sentences)	S , W
2. <a href="#">Create Chapter Titles</a> (Creating and illustrating chapter titles)	D , R , W
3. <a href="#">Letters to Sarah</a> (Writing a letter)	R , W
4. <a href="#">Clues to Time and Place</a> (Drawing a picture of the story setting)	D , R , W
5. <a href="#">Getting to Know a Story Character</a> (Making a list of questions)	W
6. <a href="#">The Gift of Gardens</a> (Writing a paragraph or poem)	W
Sarah, Plain and Tall - Group Activities	Skills
1. <a href="#">Life on the Prairie</a> (Comparing two authors of historical fiction)	L , S
2. <a href="#">"Tell Me About Winter"</a> (Writing an additional chapter)	S , W
3. <a href="#">Describing Yourself</a> (Writing a letter)	S , W
4. <a href="#">Five Scenes</a> (Illustrating scenes from the story)	D , S , W
5. <a href="#">Sarah's Train Journey</a> (Discussing moving to a new region)	D , R , W
6. <a href="#">"Let's Talk About..."</a> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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