

Lauren Bailey  
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## Tradebook



**Title:** *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

**Author's name:** Patricia MacLachlan

**Publisher:** Harper Trophy

**Copyright year:** 1987

**Reading level:** Third Grade

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Synopsis of Story:** A widowed midwestern farmer with two children, Anna and Caleb advertises for a wife during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. When Sarah arrives she is homesick for Maine. The children fear that she will not stay, and when she goes off to town alone, young Caleb, whose mother died during childbirth, is stricken with the fear that she has gone for good. But she returns with colored pencils to illustrate for them the beauty of Maine, and to explain that, though she misses her home she would miss the children more if she left.

**Theme:** Early American Life

**Activity One:** Advertisement

**Source:** <http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading3/activities1.htm>

**Standard:** English 5.5.6 - Write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person, adjusting tone and style as appropriate.

**Objective:** Using what they have learned from the text, have the students put themselves in the place of the farmer. Have them create a newspaper advertisement for a new wife.

**Description of activity:** Have the students write an advertisement in for a newspaper. Have them pretend they have two children and that they are a widow or widower looking for a spouse.

**Activity Two:** Travel Agent

**Source:** Me and <http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading3/activities1.htm>

**Standard:** English 5.2.1 - Use the features of informational texts, such as formats, graphics, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps, and organization, to find information and support understanding.

Social Studies 5.3.2 - Name and locate states, major cities, major regions, major rivers, and mountain ranges in the United States.

Social Studies 5.3.9 - Interpret historical maps and create maps of the United States in different historical periods using map elements, such as title, legend, directional indicator, scale, and projection.

**Objective:** The students will create a travel brochure similar to something Sarah would have seen in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Description of activity:** Sarah came to Kansas on the railroad. Learn more about traveling in 1910 by researching websites and magazines. Have the students pretend they are a travel agent and create a brochure with the travel options Sarah would have had available to her.