

Additional Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Setting and overview: New Milford, Connecticut; 1707. In 1707, Sarah Noble travels with her father from Westfield, Massachusetts to the Connecticut wilderness. As he builds their house, she cooks for him and makes Native American friends. When her father must leave to get her mother and siblings, Sarah stays behind with her friends. Although she grows to care for her temporary family, her father finally returns and Sarah rejoins him and the rest of the family.

Q: Why was eight-year-old Sarah the only family member to travel with her father? [chapter 1]

A: her mom cared for a tiny baby not yet old enough to travel; the others would not come, but Sarah came to cook.

Q: Why could Sarah not fall asleep at the Robinson house? [chapter 2]

A: unkind children teased her and put fearful thoughts in her mind

Q: Why did Sarah not want a house like Mistress Robinson's? [chapter 3]

A: there was no love in that house

Q: How did Sarah's father teach her to treat others? Is this good advice? [chapter 3]

A: watch her words, help others, and treat all with kindness

Q: Sarah keeps fear at bay by repeating her mother's words to her, "keep up your courage." What are ways to build up your character by focusing on encouraging thoughts?

Q: How does Sarah greet and entertain the Native American children? [chapter 5]

A: politely, with "you are welcome to our house"

Q: Why is father unsure if Sarah should visit the Native American children's home? [chapter 6]

A: he doesn't know the customs and ways of the Native American families and is unsure how Sarah will be cared for

Q: Sarah's father tells her, "To be afraid and to be brave is the best courage of all." What does this mean? [chapter 7]

Vocabulary

wigman: a bark house; a sapling frame covered with tree bark - a more permanent shelter than a moveable tipi like the Plains Indians used

Q: How does Tall John explain Sarah's prayer to his children? [chapter 8]

A: she prays to the Great Spirit, even as they do

Q: What does Sarah learn about Tall John and his people? [chapter 11]

A: they're not "savages," but friends; their moms take good care of their children, too, and the Native American family loves her and cares for her

Q: What does Sarah want to do when she grows up? [chapter 11]

A: have twelve children and teach school