

## Additional Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Overview: When Anna's mother dies after giving birth to her little brother, Papa does not sing any more. Several years later, though, he puts an ad in the paper—for a wife. Sarah comes to visit for a month and the whole family grows to love her. She teaches the children how to swim and how to dry flowers, she sings, she draws, and she slides down a haystack "dune." But the prairie does not have the ocean, and Sarah misses it. When she goes to town by herself, the children fear she will leave for good—but she brings back colored pencils the color of the sea: blue, gray, and green. Sarah brings the ocean to them.

Q: What did Anna think of Caleb when he was first born? [chapter 1]

A: he was ugly, smelly and noisy, and Mama died

Q: What does Sarah write to the kids about? [chapter 2]

A: the sea and she answers their questions

Q: How does Sarah feel when she first arrives? [chapter 3]

A: lonely for the sea and her old life

Q: What does Sarah do with the children? [chapter 4]

A: gather and dry flowers, cut and brush hair, talk about Maine life, sing

Q: What does Sarah say that makes Caleb and Anna hopeful that she will stay? [chapter 5]

A: our dune

Q: What are winters like on the prairie? [chapter 6]

A: cold, windy, lots of snow, and beautiful

Q: Why does Maggie know about missing things? [chapter 7]

A: she also answered an ad to be a wife, so she misses Tennessee sometimes; she says, “there are always things to miss”

Q: Why does Sarah want to learn to drive a wagon? [chapter 8]

A: for independence—to see friends, to shop, to have time to herself

Q: What does Sarah bring back from town? [chapter 9]

A: blue, gray, and green colored pencils

Q: Why does Sarah decide to stay? [chapter 9]

A: no matter where she goes, she’ll always miss something, and she’ll miss the children and Papa more if she returns to the sea