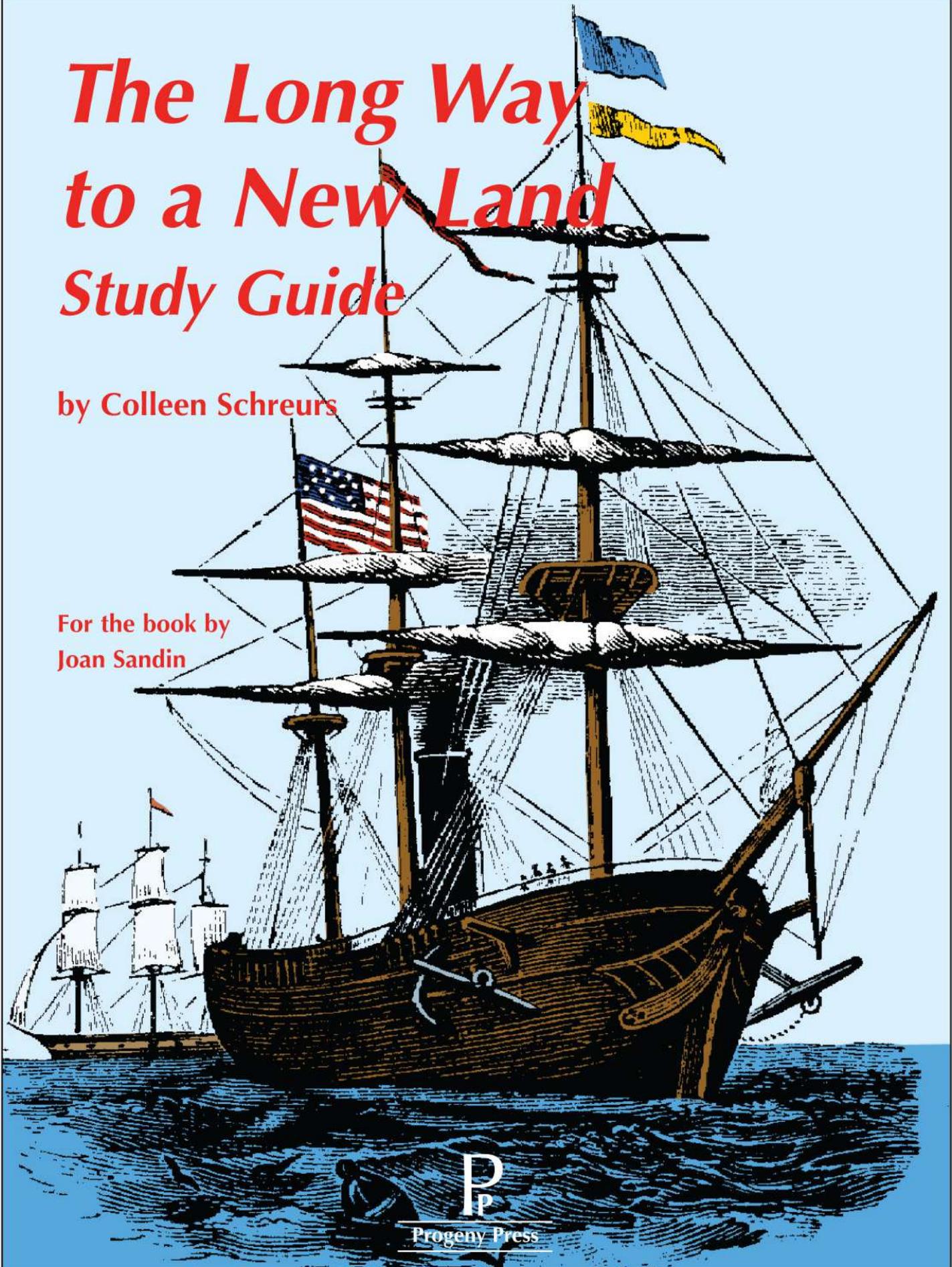


# *The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide*

by Colleen Schreurs

For the book by  
Joan Sandin



**P**  
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## Synopsis

*The Long Way to a New Land* is the story of one Swedish family's struggle during the famines in Sweden. We meet them in 1868, during the "hunger years", when a letter from a relative in America persuades them to sell everything, pack their trunk and move to America, the "land of opportunity." We follow them from cart to over-crowded boat to train and finally to the steamship that will take them far from their homeland to a new land. For twelve days at sea they are packed in with other emigrants, sick and yet hopeful as they make their journey. As they set foot on American soil, they are examined by doctors and questioned, as all emigrants were. Their hopes of a new life are realized as a letter from their relative tells of winter employment already secured for the father. The eldest boy, Carl Erik exclaims, "Now we are arrived."

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7. A little boy stood on the corner \_\_\_\_\_ for a piece of bread.
8. The squirrel \_\_\_\_\_ acorns in the autumn to store for the long winter.

**Cause and Effect:**

A *cause* is an action that makes something happen. An *effect* is what happens as a result of the cause. For example, Amy told a funny joke, and all the children laughed. The *cause* is that Amy told a funny joke. The *effect* is that all the children laughed.

Think about what happens in the story. Match the cause to its effect.

- | <b>Cause</b>              | <b>Effect</b>                                |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. No rain for the fields | ___ No food to harvest and store for winter. |
| 2. No food for the cow    | ___ Empty stomachs.                          |
| 3. The crops didn't grow  | ___ The grass dried up.                      |
| 4. An empty cupboard      | ___ The cow couldn't produce milk.           |

**Questions:**

1. List two to three items that you know are in bread.

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Now list the ingredients the boys gathered for bread.

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What does this tell you about the family? \_\_\_\_\_

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List some of the ways the rest of Sweden is affected by the famine. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. When the family received the letter from America, why do you think they decided to go? Reread the letter. What appealed to Carl Erik and Jonas? \_\_\_\_\_

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What appealed to Pappa and Mamma? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dig Deeper:**

3. Read the following Bible verses and answer the questions.

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord,  
“plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a  
hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

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### *Questions:*

1. Answers will vary. happy, relieved, excited, joyful, thankful, etc.
2. Answers will vary. confused, scared, worried, nervous, anxious, etc.
3. Answers will vary. They may have contracted some disease during the trip. Yes, they could still have been sent back.
4. Answers will vary. They wanted to remove threat of any diseases that may be passed through the straw, or by bugs in the straw.
5. Jonas asked for wheat bread and butter.
6. Pappa had a job waiting for him when he arrived.
7. These verses tell us to pray and trust God for our needs.

### *Using the Illustrations*

1. Answers will vary. Dark pictures help us feel how depressing and gloomy the situation was.
2. The father is comforting the mother. They are selling all their possessions.
3. The grandmother is very sad in these pictures because she will probably never see Pappa, Mamma, and her grandchildren again.
4. Jonas is swinging on the rope along the gangplank. Pappa is afraid that Jonas might fall in the water.
5. Answers will vary. First-class passage on the steamer was very costly. Those people who sailed first-class were most likely very rich, and their accommodations very luxurious.
6. Answers will vary. An occasional smile is seen during their journeys, but the family is most obviously smiling after arrival in America. They are happy their long journey is over.

### *Looking at the Story*

1. Answers will vary. steamship: 12 days; airplane: 6 hours; ocean liner: 5 days; *The Mayflower*: 7 weeks.
2. Answers will vary. The family could have gotten separated in the crowds of people, there were storms on the ocean, the conditions for the emigrants aboard the steamer were filthy, there was the spread of disease to be concerned about.
3. Answers will vary. There were other reasons people left Sweden for America, but in the story, it is the famine which causes Carl Erik's family to decide to leave. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.