



The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide

by Colleen Schreurs

For the book by
Joan Sandin



Table of Contents

Note to Instructor.....	4
Synopsis.....	5
Background	6
About the Author.....	7
Before-you-read Activities	8
Chapter 1	10
Chapter 2	14
Chapter 3	22
Chapter 4	28
Chapter 5	33
Using the Illustrations.....	38
Looking at the Story	40
After-you-read Activities	42
Family Tree.....	44
Resources.....	45
Answer Key	Separate File

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."

The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide

- 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.

Cause	Effect
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.

Now list the ingredients the boys gathered for bread.

The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide

What does this tell you about the family? _____

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

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? _____

What appealed to Pappa and Mamma? _____

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

The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide Answer Key

Questions:

1. They were given an English/Swedish phrase book.
2. The book helped them learn English phrases they would need upon reaching America.

Chapter 5

Vocabulary:

1. welcome; 2. twelfth; 3. tugboat; 4. nervous; 5. examined; 6. alongside; 7. aboard; 8. whined;
9. arranged; 10. America



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.