

The Courage of Sarah Noble

Study Guide

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For the book by Alice Dalgliesh



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Synopsis

This is a true story about a young girl named Sarah Noble. In the year 1707 she goes with her father to cook for him while he builds the first house in New Milford, Connecticut. There are many things to be afraid of along the way, but she always reminds herself to keep up her courage. She does this by holding the red cape her mother had placed around her as she left and repeating her mother's words. "Keep up your courage," her mother had said, fastening the cloak under Sarah's chin. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble!" Sarah learns to appreciate the wonderful family she has and the Indians who befriend her. She is very happy when reunited with her mother, father, brothers, and sisters at the end of the book.

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- 6. mortar & pestle
 - a. coffee grinder
 - b. a bowl and stick used to grind things

Questions:

- 1. Sarah was nervous when her father left to build the house. What did she do to encourage herself? _____

- 2. What is your favorite Bible story? Why? _____

- 3. Why do you think the Indian children gathered around to watch her? _____

- 4. She wished that God would tell her what to do. He did not speak out loud but Sarah suddenly knew what to do. What was it? _____

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7. Why did Sarah cry and call it “a lonely business”? _____

8. When Sarah prayed before bed, she did not simply repeat a memorized prayer, but she asked God for what she wanted and needed. Read Ephesians 6:18. “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Also 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” List three different parts of prayer these verses tell us about. _____

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Answer Key

Before-you-read Activities

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Now people stay in motels, inns, and hotels. The rest of the answer will vary.
4. The settlers built many styles of homes. The most common were sod shanties, dugouts and log cabins. Years later as the westward expansion hit the prairies, sod shanties and rough board shacks were the most common. Materials consisted of whatever was easily available, usually logs, wood planks and sod. Settlers either built their own homes or traded labor or goods to have help building their home.
5. Answers will vary.

As-you-read Activity

1. Different times in the book that Sarah holds the cloak and reminds herself to keep up her courage:
 - a. The first night Sarah draws her cloak close.
 - b. She thought about her family, and baking pies and fell asleep holding a fold of the cloak and saying “Keep up your courage Sarah Noble.”
 - c. She keeps her cloak on while waiting for her father to come into Mistress Robinson’s house.
 - d. She asked for her cloak and held it tightly that night sleeping in Mistress Robinson’s house and saying “Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble.”
 - e. The first night in the cave, Sarah stayed comfortable wrapped in her warm cloak. She said “Keep up your courage” after the skunk was gone.
 - f. She said “Keep up your courage” each day when she sat alone while her father built the house.
 - g. When Sarah got lonely and had no one, not even her doll, to read to, she got up and got her cloak.
 - h. She told herself to keep up her courage when the Indian children encircled her.
 - i. When her father left, Sarah held Tall John’s hand and wrapped her cloak tightly around herself and repeated, “Keep up your courage.”
 - j. While she stayed with Tall John’s family, she slept always with a fold of her cloak caught in her hand, Before she fell asleep, she said “Keep up your courage.”

Why did she hold the cloak, and what did it remind her of?

Sarah held the cloak for comfort and encouragement. It reminded Sarah of her mother.

Chapters 1 & 2

Vocabulary:

1. settlement = a place or region newly settled, or a small village.
2. musket = a large heavy shoulder gun such as a flintlock or a matchlock.
3. heathen savage = an uncivilized, irreligious barbarian.
4. timidly = lacking in courage or self-confidence or boldness. Shyly.
5. fearful = full of fear, afraid.

Questions:

1 through 8. Answers will vary, but each child should have explainable and/or logical reasons for his or her answers.

Chapters 3 & 4

Vocabulary:

Their definitions may vary.

1. solemn = somber, gloomy, serious.
2. coarse = large, rough texture.
3. fair = pleasing to the eye and mind. Fresh and charming, beautiful.
4. hollowed = having an indentation, cavity or hole.