

The Courage of Sarah Noble

Critical Thinking Questions Choose and write complete answers for at least five (5) questions as, or after, you read the book. Be sure to include information from the beginning, the middle, and the end of the novel.

1. Why would Sarah ask her dad to talk to her at night?
2. Why would it be hard to take the baby on the long journey to CT?
3. What is Sarah's dad thinking or feeling about bringing her?
4. In the Robinson home, why does Sarah want to keep her cloak? (Is it really because she's cold as she says?)
5. Notice how the Native Americans are thought of by Sarah and her father. Discuss the prejudices and stereotypes that existed.
6. Talking about the house they stayed in, Sarah says "No love in that house"-- what does it mean? "Too wise for your years" --what does it mean? What is her dad saying about her opinion of the Robinson home?
7. Why would Sarah not admit she minded staying alone while her dad built the house?
8. On the first visit, Sarah calls the Native American children foolish. Why? Would you call them foolish for this? Why or why not?
9. How would it make you feel if someone thought your name was too long or too hard to say and gave you a foreign sounding name instead?
10. How does Sarah's relationship with and attitude towards the Native American children change in chapter 6?
11. How can you be afraid yet still have courage?
12. Sarah's cloak is mentioned repeatedly. Why? What does the cloak symbolize?
13. Why must Sarah change into her dress and petticoat?
14. What was her mom's attitude towards the moccasins?

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15. What does Sarah's mother call the Native Americans? Does Sarah still consider them that? What does she call them?
16. Discuss the attitude changes that Sarah experiences through this novel.
17. To the Nobles, being clean and well-dressed are proofs that people are not savages. What do you think? What makes someone savage?
18. Do you think Sarah's mother will change her attitude like Sarah's did?
19. How does Sarah's speech towards and play with her doll Arabella prove that she's both a girl and has matured?

Extension Activities Choose and complete any one (1) activity.

Social Studies - Thirteen Colonies Label all 13 colonies on a map. Make a line from MA to CT, the route that Sarah and her dad took.

Science - Woodland Animals Using whatever animal reference book you have available, study the woodland animals mentioned in these chapters: owl, fox, and wolf. Record what you learn about each animal.

Language Arts - Write a short story in which Sarah's mom learns to appreciate the Indians. Make her attitude change as Sarah's did.

- Or Write a "When I had Courage" story, telling how you overcame a frightening time.

Genre: Historical Fiction Read the notes at the beginning of the book. What parts of this novel are factual and which are created by the author? This kind of book is called historical fiction. What other books have you read that are historical fiction? Write about this.

Creative Project - Think up and complete your own choice of activity that demonstrates you read and understood the book.