



# Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - Sarah, Plain and Tall

Grade level 3  
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 560L

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## Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

## Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

## **Text-to-Self**

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 1**

In the story, Caleb, Anna and Papa write letters to Sarah. Their letters ask Sarah questions about what she can do, what she likes, and what her life in Maine is like. Sarah writes back with her answers. Write a paragraph about someone you would like to write to. Tell what you would like to learn from that person.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 2**

In the story, Sarah leaves her home in Maine to come to the prairie. Frequently, Sarah talks about the things she misses. She misses the sea, her brother and aunts, and the flowers in Maine. Write about a time when you were away from home and describe what you missed most.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 3**

In the story, Sarah leaves her home in Maine to come to the prairie. Frequently, Sarah talks about the things she misses. She misses the sea, her brother and aunts, and the flowers in Maine. Think of a time when you were away from home. What is something about home that you missed? Write about a time when you were away from home and describe one of the things that you missed.

**Evidence and Inference**

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

**Evidence and Inference Topic 1**

When a tragic event has occurred, people need comfort and reassurance. In the story, Caleb asks Anna to retell the story of the day he was born. Write a paragraph that tells what Anna said to Caleb about the day he was born.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 1.)*

1. What does Sarah have in the black case?
2. What does Sarah bring for Caleb?
3. What does Sarah bring for Anna?
4. How do Sarah's gifts to Caleb and Anna represent her home in Maine?

**Evidence and Inference Topic 2**

Sometimes things brought from another place and another time serve an important purpose. When Sarah arrives at the farm, she is far from her home in Maine. What are some of the things she brings to the farm from home and why does she choose them?

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 3.)*

1. What does Sarah have in the black case?
2. What does Sarah bring for Caleb?
3. What does Sarah bring for Anna?
4. How do Sarah's gifts to Caleb and Anna represent her home in Maine?

**Evidence and Inference Topic 3**

It is possible to misinterpret someone's behavior. This can lead to the wrong conclusion. Write a paragraph describing why the children think Sarah might leave after she has been with them for a month.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)*

1. What does Sarah do that makes the children think she is planning to go back to Maine?
2. What does Caleb think he might have done to make Sarah want to leave?
3. What is the reason both Anna and Caleb feel might make Sarah want to go home?
4. What is Sarah's decision -- to stay with the children or to go back to Maine?

## Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

### Reading Check Topic

Animals are important in the story, which takes place on a farm. Write a paragraph about the different animals in the story.

1. What kind of pet does Sarah bring to the farm?
2. Sarah wants to swim in the pond. Which animals must be chased away before she can swim?
3. Maggie and Matthew, the neighbors, visit the farm, bringing a gift of animals for Sarah. Which animals do they bring and what do they expect Sarah to do with them?
4. At the end of the story, Sarah is able to go to town without Papa. What did she need to learn, and which animals played a role in her experience?

## Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

### Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from Sarah, Plain and Tall that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
apprehension	Fearful or uneasy about the future
character	Good moral strength
remembrance	Keepsake, reminder

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Sarah, Plain and Tall include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
admiration	High regard
adversity	Hardship
devotion	Dedication
integrity	Honest and strong
loneliness	Feeling alone
spirit	Vitality
success	Accomplished goal

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

### Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Anna is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe her to someone who doesn't know her. (What does Anna look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?)

Compare and contrast Anna with Caleb or another character in the book.

### *Group Work and Discussion – Pre-writing*

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

Sarah makes a difficult choice when she decides to leave her home in Maine to visit the farm. Papa has lost his wife and the children their mother. It may be hard to replace her. Sarah loves the sea, and the farm is on the prairie, far from the ocean.

Think about what it would take for Sarah to leave her home to explore this new and uncertain situation. Write about the character traits Sarah would need to take this step.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 7.)*

### *Additional Writing Prompts*

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of Sarah, Plain and Tall, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Sarah brings happiness and comfort to the family. She reads to the children and plays with them. She cooks for them and sings to them. They learn to love and respect her.

Think about someone older than you whom you look up to. Write about what this person does to earn your respect and admiration.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 4.)*

In the story, Anna asks Sarah about her brother. Sarah tells Anna and Caleb and Papa about her brother. She also tells him about her three aunts who “wear silk dresses and no shoes.”

Think of someone special in your life. Write about what makes this person special.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 5.)*

### **Printable Worksheet Links**

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

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