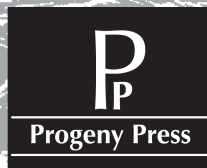
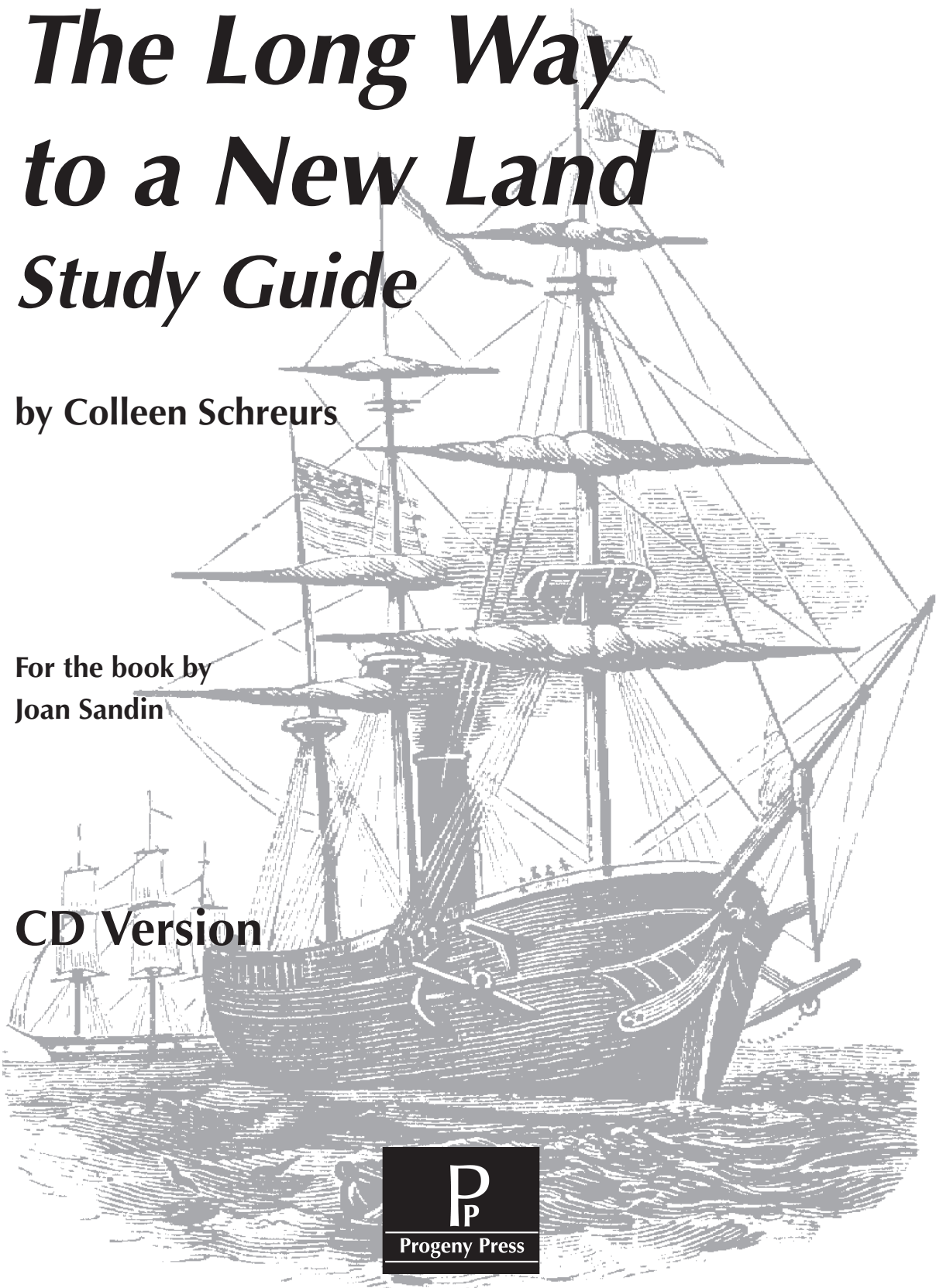


The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide

by Colleen Schreurs

For the book by
Joan Sandin

CD Version



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The Long Way to a New Land Study Guide

A Progeny Press Study Guide

by Colleen Schreurs

with Andrew Clausen, Rebecca Gilleland

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PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN 978-1-58609-282-5

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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."

Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

Match the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definitions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ moss | a. beyond improvement |
| ___ bitter | b. collected |
| ___ begging | c. to have pain |
| ___ fierce | d. green, carpet-like plant |
| ___ hopeless | e. to remove by rubbing |
| ___ ache | f. wild and savage |
| ___ gathered | g. pleading for assistance |
| ___ scraped | h. unpleasant |

Fill in the blanks using the vocabulary words that best complete the sentences.

1. The food left a _____ taste in her mouth.
2. There was a _____ wind during last night's storm.
3. Katie took some aspirin to help the _____ in her tooth.
4. The _____ felt soft and cushiony beneath John's bare feet.
5. The old paint needed to be _____ before new paint could be applied to the house.
6. It seemed like a _____ task to mend Brian's toy airplane.

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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.

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.

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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

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But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:17, 18

How does Uncle Axel obey what is written in 1 John 3:17, 18? _____

Tell of a time you saw someone in need. Did you help? How? _____

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Chapter 5

Vocabulary:

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



Questions:

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

Using the Illustrations

- Answers will vary. Dark pictures help us feel how depressing and gloomy the situation was.
- The father is comforting the mother. They are selling all their possessions.
- The grandmother is very sad in these pictures because she will probably never see Pappa, Mamma, and her grandchildren again.
- Jonas is swinging on the rope along the gangplank. Pappa is afraid that Jonas might fall in the water.
- 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.
- 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

- Answers will vary. steamship: 12 days; airplane: 6 hours; ocean liner: 5 days; The *Mayflower*: 7 weeks.
- 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.
- 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.
- Answers will vary.