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Name _____

Sarah, Plain and Tall **Sample Note-Taking Chart: Chapter One**

To help you keep track of your reading, you will be taking notes using a chart like the one below. The chart below has been completed for Chapter One.

NOTE-TAKING Tips:

1. Do not copy word-for-word out of your text. Instead, rewrite in your OWN words.
2. Choose only the most important information to write down—ask yourself “What is MOST important?”
3. Except for the summary, do not write using complete sentences—a few words that get the point across will do!

Who are the MOST IMPORTANT (main) characters in this chapter?

Caleb, Anna, Papa (Jacob)

Describe the setting (where the action takes place) of this chapter:

In the house at dusk. It is cold enough that they need a fire in the fireplace. Winter is nearly over, and there are patches of snow and ice on the ground.

Give 2-3 things we learn about each MAIN character in this chapter.

Caleb—younger brother, did not know his mom (she died three days after he was born)

Anna—older sister, thought her brother was ugly when he was born

Papa—doesn't sing anymore, put an ad in the paper for a wife and mother to Caleb and Anna

Summarize the important events that happen in this chapter.

Caleb again asks Anna about his mom and when he was born. He wonders why Papa doesn't sing anymore. That night, he asks Papa why he doesn't sing anymore, and Papa tells Anna and Caleb that he has put an advertisement in the newspaper for a wife and mother. They have received a response from a woman in Maine named Sarah.

Name _____

Write 3 things you feel are important to remember about this chapter.

1. Caleb and Anna's mother is dead.
2. Papa has taken out an ad for a wife and mother.
3. Sarah has written about the advertisement.

How do these events affect each character in this chapter?

1. Anna's mother is dead—Caleb, Anna, and Papa are very sad, and miss their mother (and wife) a lot.
2. Papa has taken out an ad for a wife—Caleb and Anna are unsure about Papa's ad, and wonder if the woman will be like their old housekeeper, Hilly. Papa is desperate to find a wife and a mother to take care of his children.
3. Sarah has written about the ad—Anna and Caleb and Papa are curious. They want to know more about Sarah.

What questions do you have about the characters or what happened in the chapter?

How did their mother die?

How old are Caleb and Anna?

Why doesn't Papa sing anymore?

Why does Sarah want to live with them?

Will Sarah come to be with the family?

What do you think is going to happen next?

I think that Sarah is going to come live with the family for a while.

Name _____

Note-Taking Chart: Chapter _____

NOTE-TAKING Tips:

- 1. Do not copy word-for-word out of your text. Instead, rewrite in your OWN words.*
- 2. Choose only the most important information to write down—ask yourself “What is MOST important?”*
- 3. Except for the summary, do not write using complete sentences—a few words that get the point across will do!*

Who are the MOST IMPORTANT (main) characters in this chapter?

Describe the setting (where the action takes place) of this chapter:

Give 2-3 things we learn about each MAIN character in this chapter.

Summarize the important events that happen in this chapter.

Name _____

Write 3 things you feel are important to remember about this chapter.

How do these events affect each character in this chapter?

What questions do you have about the characters or what happened in the chapter?

What do you think is going to happen next?