

Pat Flynn and Ruth Valdes: LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 6: SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL

**BIG IDEA:** People have frequently moved to find a better life for themselves.

**Enduring Understanding:** People do not always remain where they are born; moving can create new opportunities, a new way of life.

**Essential Question:** What would motivate someone to move to an entirely different place, and leave behind everything that is familiar?

**Class Description:** We will begin with a discussion about what we know (based on the text) about Sarah's life in the present, after her move. Students will break up into small groups. Each group will have the option of creating a scene, through tableaux vivants, from Sarah's old life in the East, or what would happen if she were to make a visit to her old home now? Questions for consideration: why did Sarah leave in the first place? What were her options? Was her life going to change anyway?

The class will look at the tableaux. Who is the focus? What do we learn about the relationships among the characters by where and how they are standing in relation to one another? Are the tableaux communicating as clearly as they might? Is the audience getting what the actors intended them to understand? What adjustments might be made to make the action clearer?

From whose point of view do we know this story? Is it credible? How often does Sarah speak for herself, and how? Have you made your choices about your scene based on what others say, observe, or think about Sarah in the book?

What mementos did Sarah choose to bring with her? Was there anything she chose to forget? What colors reminded her of home, and why?

Connections: What did you bring with you from your old home? What are the colors of your old home? What do you want to remember? Could you imagine returning one day? What do you think will change? What will remain the same?

#### READING – GRADE 6

CCSS.ELA – Literacy.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA – Literacy.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

#### CCCSS for Visual and Performing Arts

1.1 Creative Process

1.2 Performance

1.3 Aesthetic Responses and Critique Methodologies

