**Sarah, Plain and Tall**

**Adapted Skit**

**Characters**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Narrator 4

Narrator 5

Anna

Caleb

Papa

Lottie

Nick

Seal

**Narrator 1:** Picture a small, humble home nestled in a vast field of prairie land, surrounded with colorful flowers and light green grass blanketing the rolling plains. Walk onto the porch of the little house and in through the front door, where you’ll see a fire crackling in the fireplace on one side of the room. Before the fire sits a large man with his two children, a small boy, and a girl, a bit older than her brother. Exhausted on the floor lay two furry dogs on their sides, paws and tongues extended.

**Caleb:** Did Mama sing every day? Tell me, Anna! Tell me about Mama.

**Anna:** Every single day, Caleb. (whispering) For the hundredth time this week.

**Caleb:** Did Papa sing, too?

**Anna:** Yes, Papa sang with Mama. Every day.

**Caleb:** Papa doesn’t sing anymore. What did I look like when I was born?

**Anna:** You didn’t have any clothes on and you didn’t have any hair. You looked like this loaf of bread here.

**Caleb:** And Mama named me Caleb!

**Anna:** Yes, but I would have named you Troublesome!

**Caleb:** And Mama handed me to you in a yellow blanket…and…

**Anna:** And she said, “Isn’t he beautiful, Anna?”

**Narrator 2:** Anna didn’t tell Caleb how she thought him ugly and stinky. She resented him for some time, for following his birth, their mother stopped living. It took her three days to love him. She knew she loved him when she held him and he smiled at her.

**Caleb:** Papa, you don’t sing anymore.

**Papa:** I’ve forgotten the old songs. But maybe there’s a way to remember them. I have something to tell you. Sit down. I have put an ad in the paper for someone to come live with and help us.

**Caleb:** Another housekeeper? Remember the other one we had – boy was she terrible!

**Papa:** Not a housekeeper. A Wife.

**Caleb:** You mean…a mother?

**Papa:** Perhaps.

**Narrator 3:** Nick sits up and Papa pets his ears. He reaches into his pocket and removes a folded piece of paper.

**Papa:** And I’ve received a response.

**Narrator 4:** Anna takes the letter from his hands and reads it, nervously but with growing excitement.

**Anna:** Dear Jacob Witting,

I am Sarah Wheaton from Maine. I have seen your advertisement. I have never been married but I have been asked. My brother is soon to be married.

I live by the sea but I feel that it is necessary to move. Do not be

insulted by this, but with my brother getting married, my choices are limited.

I am not mild-mannered. If you are still interested, please write back. I’d like to know more about your children, and you.

Very truly yours,

Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton

P.S. Do you have an opinion on cats? I have one.

**Caleb:** Papa, write back! Ask her if she sings!

**Narrator 5:** They each write a letter to Sarah and even before the snow has finished melting, responses are received.

**Narrator 1:** Sarah wrote to Anna to tell her that while she can braid hair and bake bread, she prefers painting and building bookshelves. In her letter, she explains how her favorite colors mimic those of the sea, blue and gray and green.

**Narrator 2:** She also wrote to Caleb. She tells him about her gray cat, named Seal and that she loves dogs as well. She also says that she does not know if she snores.

**Anna:** Did you really ask her if she snores, Caleb? I’m so embarrassed!

**Narrator 3:** Caleb keeps the letter in his pocket and even brings it to bed with him. A while later, Papa tells them he received a final response; she will come and visit for a month. If she finds it agreeable, she will stay.

**Narrator 4:** Shortly thereafter, a letter arrives.

Dear Jacob,

I will come by train. I will wear a yellow bonnet. I am plain and tall.

Sarah

P.S. Tell them I sing.

**Narrator 5:** Sarah arrives in her yellow bonnet just after the lambs were born. Caleb has never been more anxious and excited!

**Caleb:** Did you bring some see, Sarah?

**Narrator 1:** Sarah steps off the wagon with some bags. She puts one on the ground, opens it and lets out Seal. He confidently walks around and sniffs the dogs. Lottie whines a little but eventually lays her head down between her paws. Nick pants and wags his tail.

**Papa:** The cat will be good in the barn, for the mice.

**Sarah:** He will be good in the house, too.

**Narrator 2:** Seal scampers off onto the porch. The dogs watch him. Sarah opens the second bag and removes a shell for Caleb.

**Sarah:** A Moon Snail! The gulls fly high and drop the shells on the rocks below. When the shell is broken, they eat what is inside! And for you, Anna, is a sea stone. The sea washes over and over and around the stone, rolling it until it is round and perfect.

**Caleb:** That is very smart! We do not have a sea here.

**Sarah:** No, but the land rolls like a little like the sea?

**Narrator 3:** Papa does not see the look on Sarah’s face as she says this, but Anna does. She is not smiling. It is a look of loneliness.

**Caleb:** When will we sing?

**Narrator 4:** Sarah settles in. Papa is very shy with her at first. The dogs warm up to her first, then the children. She spends time petting the dogs gingerly on their heads and scratching their backs. They love her immediately.

**Sarah:** I am going to go pick some flowers. We can hang some upside down to dry so that we have flowers all winter long.

**Anna:** I want to help!

**Caleb:** Me too!

**Narrator 5:** Later that evening, after eating delicious stew, the family and Sarah sit and chat.

**Papa:** The stew was delicious.

**Sarah:** Ayuh. The bread too!

**Caleb:** Ayuh?

**Sarah:** It means yes in Maine! Do you want to finish off the stew?

**Caleb:** Ayuh.

**Papa:** Ayuh.

**Narrator 1:** Anna, Caleb, Papa and Sarah sing into the night. Sarah teaches them a song about summer as she reminisces about her life in Maine.