

Meeting Father in Plymouth

A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Reader

Word Count: 826

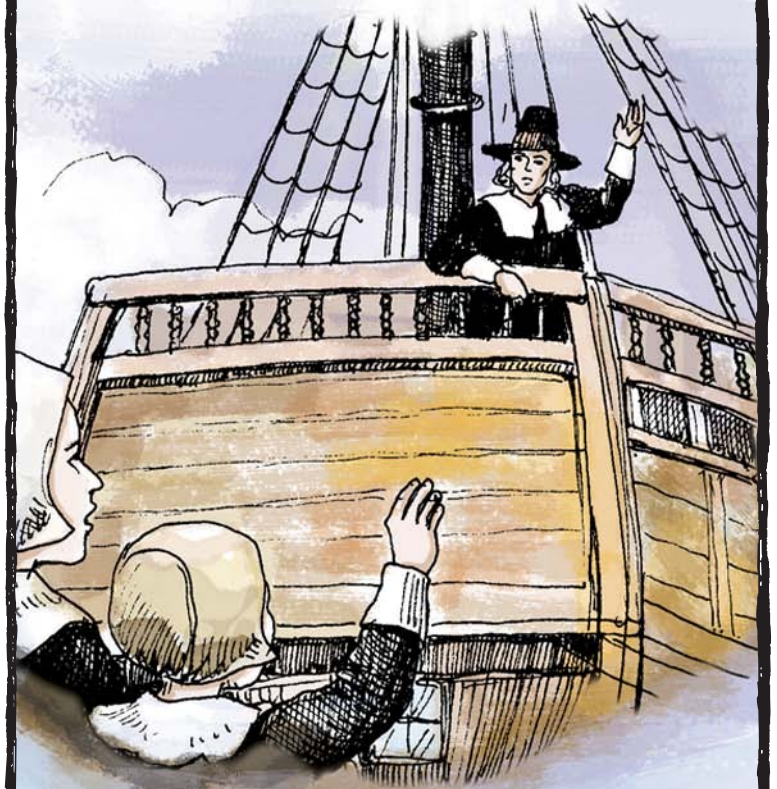


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Illustrated by Marcy Ramsey

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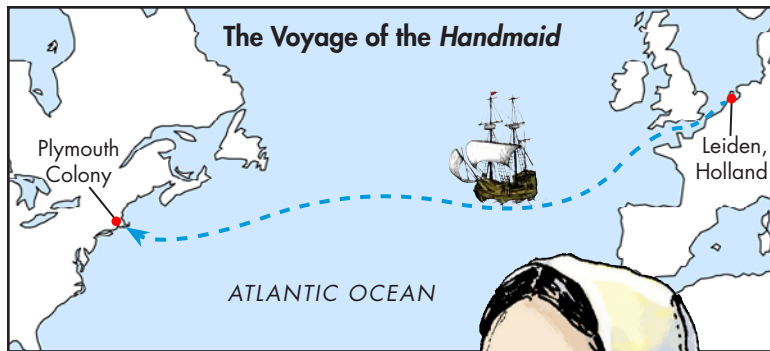
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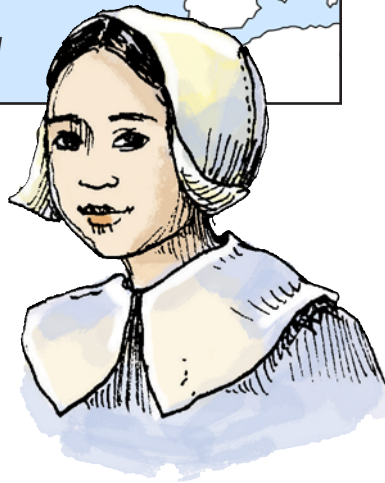
Correlation

LEVEL O

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Fountas & Pinnell | M |
| Reading Recovery | 20 |
| DRA | 28 |



Young, yet **mature** for her seven years, Sarah hurriedly walked onto the *Handmaid*. The ship would take her and her family across the ocean to meet their father in a **settlement** called **Plymouth Colony**.



Math Minute

The *Handmaid* left Leiden, Holland, on August 10, 1630. The ship landed at Plymouth Colony on October 29, 1630. How many days did it take the ship to travel to Plymouth Colony?



Hand in hand, she walked with her mother and four brothers onto the ship. Sarah thought about her father. He had made the ocean trip in March. It was now August, and she could not wait to see him.

Sarah knew the journey would be long. Plymouth Colony was far away. It was on the other side of the ocean. Her mother said it would take the ship almost twelve weeks to get there.

Sarah's father had left England with other **planters**, or men who worked with crops. They sailed to Plymouth on a ship called the *Lyon*. Sarah and her family were **Puritans**. They sailed to Plymouth hoping to be free to follow their religion. In England, they did not support many of the king's decisions, so the king did not support them. So they had left England to stay in Holland until they could make the journey to Plymouth.



"What will Plymouth be like? Will it be like living in England?" asked Sarah's brother John.

"I hope so," answered Sarah. Just like her brother, she wanted life in Plymouth to be much the same as life in England.

Sarah was sad to leave her friends Jane and Anne. She hoped she would make new friends in Plymouth, even though she had heard that only a few children lived there.



Sarah crawled into her bunk bed next to her mother. It was cramped and dark. She closed her eyes and dreamed of seeing her father again. For more than eighty nights she closed her eyes and on eighty mornings opened them to see nothing but the sea. Then on the morning of October 29, she opened them to a loud cry.

“Land, ho!”

Sarah jumped up and tugged excitedly on her mother’s arm.

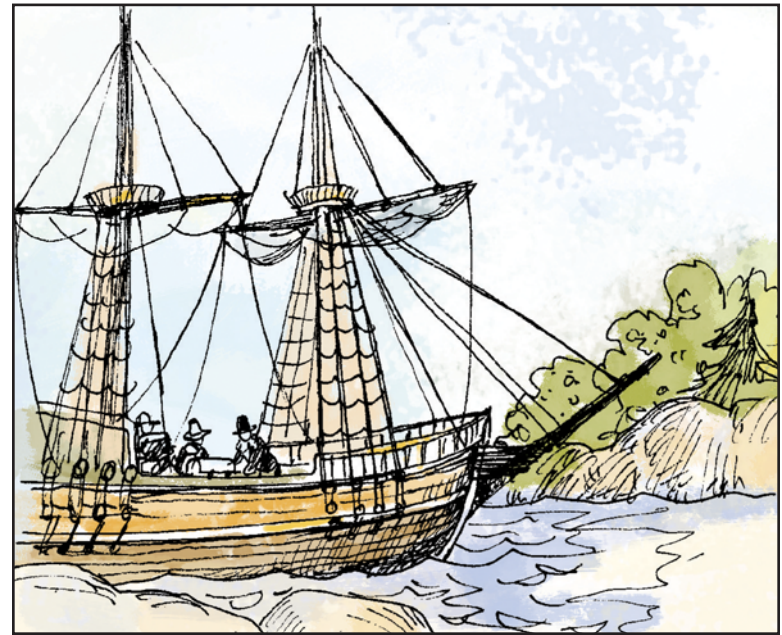
“Mother, Mother, we are here, we are here!” she cried.

Sarah leaped out of her bed and charged out onto the ship’s deck. Her brothers were on her heels. Everyone was eager to see the new land and most eager to see their father.



Soon the ship reached the rocky coast and pulled up to a dock in a small harbor at the edge of the settlement. Sarah stood on her tiptoes looking over the ship's side, searching the dock for her father. Her mother and brothers gathered their few **belongings**.

Everyone on the *Handmaid* was tired from the journey. But they were all happy to be off the ocean and even more excited to join their loved ones.





Sarah searched frantically for her father. When she spotted him, she wanted to run down the ramp, but she didn't. Puritan children were not encouraged to show their feelings.

"Sarah, how was your trip?" asked Father.

Sarah was glad her father spoke to her, for she knew it would not be polite to speak first. "Father, I have missed you so much! We were very worried about you."

Sarah's mother and brothers caught up and joined the **reunion**.

As the family gathered their belongings and walked toward their new home, Sarah's father talked about some of his new experiences.

"It has been very hard. But I have learned a lot," said Father. "In this new land, I am not only a planter as I was in England, but also a builder, a hunter, and at times a cook."





Sarah looked around her. Her new home looked a little like England, but it smelled different. Some of the trees looked the same, and there were rocks along the coast.

Sarah's new house was much smaller than their house in England. There was no glass in Plymouth, so the windows were made of waxed paper. In England, her home was made of stone, and here it was made of tree trunks and bark! Luckily, she had brought her own blanket from England, and it comforted her.



The next day, Sarah helped her mother cook and sew, just as she had back in England. But they had to be very careful not to lose any of the small sewing needles because there was a **limited** supply.

Her father and older brothers helped another new family build a house. With so many people of all ages helping, they were done in a couple of days. Soon her father was back in the fields, **tending** to the corn, beans, and squash.

Sarah's brothers helped gather wood from the forest for the fire. They never had to do that in England.

"When will we go to school as we did in England, Father?" asked Sarah.

"First, we must make sure that everyone in Plymouth has a home and food to eat. Until then, your mother will teach you."

Sarah liked that. She thought that even though things were more different than alike between Plymouth and England, she was going to like living here.



Glossary

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| belongings (n.) | objects that are owned (p. 10) |
| Handmaid (n.) | a ship that arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, with sixty passengers on October 29, 1630 (p. 3) |
| limited (n.) | a fixed number or amount (p. 14) |
| mature (n.) | developed in body or mind (p. 3) |
| planters (n.) | farmers (p. 5) |
| Plymouth Colony (n.) | a town started in 1620 by a group of settlers who are often called Pilgrims (p. 3) |
| Puritans (n.) | a group of people who started their own way to practice religion in the 1500s that was different from the main practice of religion in England at the time (p. 5) |
| reunion (n.) | a meeting with people, most often family, who have been separated (p. 11) |
| settlement (n.) | a place where people live (p. 3) |
| tending (v.) | taking care of something, such as crops (p. 14) |