

Title: Homespun Sarah by Verla Kay; illustrated by Ted Rand
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003, ISBN 0-399-23417-9

Synopsis: Nothing comes easy in colonial life. For Sarah, days are filled with chores in the house and around the farm, and sometimes they're done with her little sister tied to her apron strings. But all year, while Sarah helps plant flax, tend to the animals, and then card and spin wool, she dreams of the day the thread will be woven into fabric and a brand-new dress will be sewn – just for her. Kay uses rhyme to convey many details about colonial life in this delightful story. – Putman, 2003

Themes: Colonial life, being helpful, steps in a process, rhyme

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Activities:

1. Compare and contrast Sarah's life with the life of your students by developing a Venn Diagram or chart. Things such as colonial children standing while they eat, making clothes from scratch, type of bathroom could all be discussed and charted.
2. Encourage students to write about an aspect of their life in the precise rhyme Verla Kay uses. For example, Verla Kay writes: "Rooster crowing, Water, pour, Bare toes prancing, Chilly floor." A student might write: "Alarm clock rings, Snuggle, bed, Shower steaming, Dripping head."