

# Klara's New World

Book by Jeanette Winter

Unit study by Ginger A.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Sweden

Find Sweden on a map. Sweden is officially known as "the Kingdom of Sweden." It is located in Northern Europe in the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula. Stockholm is the capital and largest city.

Most of the population speaks Swedish. The Evangelical Lutheran Church is the largest church in Sweden. Citizens enjoy a high level of education due to an excellent school system. The country is highly industrialized and has one of the highest living standards in the world. Sweden is known for its decorative and folk arts, glass ware, and steel cutlery.

### Immigration

Klara and her family immigrated from Sweden to America. Discuss what it means to immigrate.

Immigrate-- to move into a country for the purpose of permanent residence

Read the information at the end of the story. Ask your student for reasons why Klara's family wanted to leave Sweden:

1. Sweden was ruled by a king and an upper class of nobles and wealthy land owners.
2. Klara and her family were peasants.
3. The owner of the manor also owned all surrounding (good) farm land.

The letter from Bertil says "Everyone who works hard can live well here." How is that different from life in Sweden?

### Freedom of Religion and the Bill of Rights

Bertil also mentions freedom of worship. Why is this important? Until 1858 the government in Sweden was connected to the State Lutheran Church. Many

Swedes were intolerant of countrymen who practiced another religion. So, many Swedes left their homeland during 1840-1860 to find religious freedom.

What other freedoms do we, as Americans, have? Discuss the Bill of Rights with your student. The Bill of Rights includes the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Talk about the basic freedoms available to United States citizens. If you want, assign your student a project-- to design a poster of The Bill of Rights. Some of our freedoms in the Bill of Rights include:

Freedom of Religion

Freedom of Assembly

To Keep and Bear Arms

Freedom of Speech

Freedom of the Press

Protection for those Accused of Crimes

### **Citizenship**

Klara and her family do not want to visit in the USA and then return home to Sweden. They want to make a home in America. Explain to your student that living in a country is not the same as citizenship. Only citizens enjoy all the promises of the Constitution.

### **Steps to becoming a U.S. Citizen**

1. Fill out an application form. The form asks background questions. The applicant is required to have a set of fingerprints taken.
2. Take a citizenship test which includes questions about American government and history.
3. Appear before a judge in a court. The judge listens to the person's reasons for wanting to become a citizen and decides whether or not to grant the request.

### **Swedish Holiday- St. Martin's Day**

St. Martin of Tours didn't want to be ordained bishop, so he hid in a goose pen, but the cackling geese gave him away. His name day is celebrated in November when the geese are fattest. This medieval autumn festival included eating goose which only the craftsmen and noblemen could afford (peasants ate hen or duck). The festival is still popular in southern Sweden due to the number of goose farms.

Is your student familiar with weather lore? If he is, share this weather lore

associated with St. Martin's Day: Some people believe that if it snows on St. Martin's Day then there will be no snow on Christmas Day. Others believe that if St. Martin's Day falls on a Friday or Saturday, the coming winter will be harsh. What does your student think?

### Map Skills

Numerous places and nationalities are mentioned in *Klara's New World*. Gather a world map, USA map, and map of New York. Locate some of the places mentioned.

New York

"The captain pointed out the Manhattan Island ahead of us with Staten Island and Brooklyn on either side."

World map

"Once inside we found ourselves among hundreds of people newly arrived in America. There were Norwegians, Finns, English, Germans, Dutch, Russians, Irish, and Italians all speaking their own language, which sounded strange to me."

U.S.A. map

"Only Old Gustaf the fiddler was going with us to Minnesota."

"At Chicago we changed for the last time to a small steamboat, which took us up a canal to the Mississippi River."

"When we reached the city of Buffalo, we left the train and boarded another steamboat to cross the Great Lakes."

### Geography: Minnesota

Swedish people chose to settle in Minnesota for several reasons. The Homestead Act of 1862 opened up the Minnesota Territory for settlement. Swedish people were able to own large farms with rich soil. There were also employment opportunities in the railroad and timber industries as well as in iron mining. The Minnesota Territory was geographically similar to Sweden with forests, lakes, and rivers. Of course, lots of new immigrants were sending "America Letters" back to Sweden describing the natural resources and beauty of the Minnesota Territory.

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## BIBLE

### Loneliness

In the story Klara mentions that she "felt alone, even though there were people all around..." Discuss loneliness with your student. Is a Christian ever really alone? Memorize Matthew 28:20, "...and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

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## LANGUAGE ARTS

### List Making

Make a list of the items packed in the America trunk:

heavy tools	kettles	mugs	spinning wheel
gun	pots	knives	needles
fishing tackle	wooden plates	forks	thread
bedding	soap	clothing	family Bible

Make a list of the food items packed into baskets and sacks

dried meat	flat bread	salt	brandy (for medicinal purposes)
smoked herring	cheeses	pepper	
potatoes	butter	coffee	
dried apples	flour	sugar	

Activity Idea: Decorate a legal size envelope as an America Trunk. Illustrate the items on the list and pack the "trunk" while listening to the story. Decorate another envelope as a basket and pack the food items.

### Vocabulary

## Activities:

Write each word on an index card and put in alphabetical order. Choose a few words to study each day. Write the word in the middle of each page. Below the word write the definition of a sentence using the word. Above the vocabulary word let your student draw a picture to illustrate the word or sentence.

1. Manor: a landed estate or territorial unit
2. Fertile : bearing, producing, or capable of producing vegetation, crops, etc., abundantly; bearing or capable of bearing offspring
3. Loom: a hand-operated or power-driven apparatus for weaving fabrics, containing harnesses, lay, reed, shuttles, treadles, etc.
4. Auction: a publicly held sale at which property or goods are sold to the highest bidder
5. Knapsack: a canvas, nylon, or leather bag for clothes, food, and other supplies, carried on the back by soldiers, hikers, etc.
6. Seasickness: nausea and dizziness, sometimes accompanied by vomiting, resulting from the rocking or swaying motion of a vessel in which one is traveling at sea
7. Hammock: a hanging bed or couch made of canvas, netted cord, or the like, with cords attached to supports at each end.
8. Port: a city, town, or other place where ships load or unload.; a place along a coast in which ships may take refuge from storms; harbor.
9. Galley: a kitchen or an area with kitchen facilities in a ship, plane, or camper
10. Bay: a body of water forming an indentation of the shoreline, larger than a cove but smaller than a gulf
11. Smallpox: An acute, highly infectious, often fatal disease caused by a poxvirus and characterized by high fever and aches with subsequent widespread eruption of pimples that blister, produce pus, and form pockmarks.
12. Typhus: an acute, infectious disease caused by several species of *Rickettsia*, transmitted by lice and fleas, and characterized by acute prostration, headache, and a peculiar eruption of reddish spots on the body.
13. Immigration: To enter and settle in a country or region to which one is not native.
14. Steamboat: a boat propelled by a steam engine
15. Canal: an artificial waterway for navigation, irrigation, etc.
16. Street vendors: shopping area such as a marketplace
17. Oxcart: an ox-drawn cart

18. Filed a claim
19. Acres: a common variable unit of land measure
20. Peasants: A member of the class constituted by small farmers and tenants, sharecroppers, and laborers on the land where they form the main labor force in agriculture
21. Parish: an ecclesiastical district having its own church and member of the clergy
22. Bandits: a robber
23. Rascals: One that is playfully mischievous; An unscrupulous, dishonest person; a scoundrel
24. Famine: A drastic, wide-reaching food shortage
25. America Trunk
26. America Letter
27. Gentians: Any of numerous plants of the genus *Gentiana*, characteristically having showy, variously colored flowers.

### Discussion Questions

1. What problems face Klara's family in Sweden? (poor soil, rocky ground, no grain, crops dying, food shortage, cow stopped giving milk, slaughtered last pig, low on flour, Klara may be forced to go and work, etc.)
2. How does Bertil describe America? (land is beautiful and fertile, everything grows wonderfully, plenty of wheat, meat, milk, butter, and eggs, freedom of religion, those that work hard live well, there is plenty of room, etc.)
3. How does Klara's family prepare for the journey to America? (Mama wove cloth for new clothes. Papa built a trunk. Grandfather decorated the trunk. The work horse was sold. Food was purchased for the journey. Klara and Mama baked flat bread. The family prepared salted herrings, salt pork, dried beef, and dried apples.)
4. Why were the family's special things sold in the auction? (The family could not afford to pay for these items to be shipped. They must auction these items in order to pay for travel expenses.)
5. What does Grandfather give Klara? Why? (He gives her a little pouch of seeds to plant in America. He wants Klara to remember her family and life in Sweden.)
6. Describe the family's home on the ship. Would your student like to live on a ship for a while?(straw mattress, America trunk for a table, hammock for Klara's bed, take turns cooking at stove, etc.)
7. What were some of the above-deck activities? (shared food, told stories, played hide and seek, sang and danced to fiddle music, on Sunday the pastor led prayers and Gustaf played hymns.)

8. Papa told Mama that this is a trip you make only once. What does he mean? (He could mean several things. The trip is too expensive and too dangerous to repeat...that once a person decides to make so great a journey, there is no turning back...etc.)
9. Why do doctors come on board? (They are checking the immigrants for serious diseases.)
10. What does Papa buy from the street vendors? (fresh bread, sweet milk, oranges, and bananas)
11. How does Papa communicate with people who do not speak Swedish? (Papa used a kind of sign language.)
12. Describe Klara's new house.
13. What is the difference between a house and a home? "This was to be our home for many weeks." The family made the space on the ship into a home by loving and caring for each other. They used some familiar items to set up housekeeping and maintained a close family relationship. Later in America, Papa builds a house and Klara helps him. Papa makes simple log furniture. Mama is happy to have a home. What made the small rough house become a home? The family inside. Discuss this with your student. Why do some homes feel warm and welcoming while others feel cold and stiff?

### **Letters and Letter Writing**

During the time period of our story, letters were the only way to stay in touch with family and friends. Bertil wrote a letter to Klara's family. Klara's father wrote a letter to his father. These letters are known as friendly letters.

There are five main parts to a friendly letter.

#### 1. Heading

The heading gives the date that the letter was written as well as the complete address of the person who is writing the letter.

#### 2. Greeting

The greeting tells to whom the letter is written. The most common greeting is "Dear \_\_\_\_\_". It is considered impolite to use only the person's name as a greeting.

#### 3. Body

The body is the letter itself.

#### 4. Closing

The closing is a polite way to say goodbye. (Sincerely, Sincerely Yours, etc.)

#### 5. Signature

The signature is the name of the writer.

Read the two letters in this story and identify the parts of a friendly letter. (We do not see a heading in either letter.) The heading may have been left out of the story because people living at that time didn't always have street addresses as we do today. Notice the affectionate greeting and closing of both letters. Why do you think the writers chose them? Talk about the great distance between Sweden and America and the fact that a letter was highly cherished. Letters were important keepsakes to be read over and over by the receiver. If you were going on a long journey and could only communicate to your loved ones by letter, what would your greeting be? Here are a few ideas-- "Dear and greatly loved Mother" or "Dear and highly cherished Father"

Activity: Write an America Letter

Imagine that you have left your homeland and journeyed to America. Now that you are settled on your farm, write an America Letter to encourage your family and friends to join you. A young student can dictate a letter to mom or copy one of the letters in the story.

### Commas

There are several lists in this story. When we write a grocery list we write the items in a column. However, when these items show up in a sentence, we have to separate them with commas.

#### Rule 1

Use commas to separate three or more items in a series. Do not use a comma before the first item or after the last item in the series.

Examples from the story:

1. We have as much milk, butter, and eggs as we want.
2. ...sold everything we couldn't take to America: Papa's plow, the beautiful painted clock, Mama's loom, the cradle she rocked me in, the little wagon that Grandfather had made for me.
3. The days before we left were spent filing knapsacks, baskets, and the America Trunk.

Have your student write a list of items he wants to purchase from the grocery store. Then write the list as a sentence using commas where necessary.



## Rule 2

Commas separate items in dates and addresses.

Did you correctly place commas in the heading of your America Letter?

Write your address in a sentence.

I live at 417 Western Trail, Glenwood, Mississippi.

## Rule 3

Use commas after the greeting of a friendly letter and after the closing of any letter.

Did you correctly place commas in the greeting and closing of your America letter?

## Quotation Marks and Dictation

Write the following sentences on paper. Let your younger student add the quotes in the appropriate places.

Dictate the sentences to your older student.

"These are seeds, Klara. Plant them in America," he said. "Remember Sweden."

"Come see us in America, " Papa called back.

As the coast disappeared even Papa had a tear in his eye. I heard him whisper, "My homeland, farewell."

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## MATH

### Reasoning

Klara is not yet eight years old. How old is she? Are you younger, older, or the same age as Klara? How much younger or older are you?

### Grocery Store Math

In this story Klara's family sold their workhorse to buy food to eat on the trip. Talk about the way food is packaged and sold at the grocery store. Now plan a trip to the grocery and take your list of food items (from Language Arts lesson). At the grocery store, record the price for each item. When you return home, arrange the items in order from least to most expensive. What would the total cost of all the items on your student's list be?

### Counting Practice

Count the number of items sold at the auction.

Count the number of items packed in the America Trunk.

Count the number of food items mentioned in the story.

### Word Problems

1. Grandfather gave Klara 25 seeds. She lost 2 while boarding the ship. She gave 5 to a new friend on board the ship, and she gave two to Gustaf when he left the steamboat at Wabasha. How many seeds does Klara have left to plant?
  2. Papa needs to borrow Bertil's ox and plow for two weeks. Two weeks is equal to \_\_\_\_\_ days.
  3. Papa needs eight posts to make one bed frame. How many posts does Papa need to make two beds?
  4. It is five miles from Klara's farm to Bertil's farm. It is 10 miles from Bertil's farm to the nearest town. How far is Klara's farm from town?
  5. Papa's wagon holds 50 logs. If Papa hauls one load each day for six days, how many logs will he have hauled?
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## **SCIENCE**

### Farm Animals

Make a list of the animals mentioned in the story and discuss the importance of each. Make a chart showing each animal's product.

cow- milk, meat, cheese, butter, dried beef, leather, tallow

pig- meat, lard

geese- meat, eggs, down

horse- work, pulled wagon, ride

ox- pulled ox-cart, plow

### Geese

The story says, "...and tend geese and pigs on the big manor farm." Geese are quite common in Sweden.

Classification Information

Phylum- Chordata

Subphylum- Vertebrata

Class- Aves

Order- Anseriformes  
Family- Anatidae

Goose is the common name for large wild and domesticated swimming birds related to the duck and swan. The word goose is applied to female, gander to male, and gosling to their babies.

The breast meat of a goose looks red instead of white like a chicken. Geese are flight birds, so the muscles in the breast are in need of more oxygen. Oxygen is delivered by red blood cells. Myoglobin, a protein in meat, holds the oxygen in the muscle and that is why the meat looks "red." Geese have a layer of fat for buoyancy. The fat is not marbled in the meat. It must be removed before cooking or rendered out during cooking.

Based on this information, why do chickens have white breast meat? (chickens spend most of their time standing and little time flying)

Where do we find red meat in a chicken? (the legs, they stand a lot)

Cook a chicken or goose. Observe the parts that are red. The red meat is also what we call dark meat. Is the dark meat a muscle area used for flying or standing? Share some basic information with your student about geese and chickens. Create a Venn Diagram or chart to organize the information. Here are some of the similarities and differences between chicken and geese:

<b>Goose</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Chicken</b>
flight bird	poultry	rarely flies
swims	lay eggs	doesn't swim
dark breast meat	raised for food	white breast meat
common food in Europe		more commonly eaten in United States
feathers are expensive; used for coats and comforters		feathers are cheap
goose, gander, gosling		rooster, hen, chicks

## Fever

"The fever claimed more passengers."

Talk with your student about any past illness he has had. Did he have a fever?

Share some of the following information with your student. He may be especially interested in learning that fever is usually a helpful condition.

A fever is when your body temperature rises above the normal level (which is about 98 degrees F when measured correctly), and is caused by the heat from your body burning food. It is a symptom of a disorder and not the actual disorder. When you have injury to the body tissue or an infectious disease your body temperature usually rises. It rises because the body is trying to defend itself against infection-- working hard to kill bacteria-- so a fever isn't necessarily a bad thing. Your body is fighting!

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## ART

### Artist Study: Jeanette Winter

Find another book by Jeanette Winter and compare the artwork in book with the artwork in this one. What elements are part of Winter's style? After discussing and examining her artwork, you may want to give your student some more books to look through (some Winter's books and some from any illustrator). Without looking at the cover, can she determine which books were illustrated by Jeanette Winter? How does she know?

### List of Jeanette Winter books

*Follow the Drinking Gourd*

*Cowboy Charlie*

*The Christmas Tree Ship*

*Diego*

*Emily Dickinson's Letters to the World*

*Beatrix*

*Josefina*

*Shaker Boy*

*The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps*

*Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*

*Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*

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## JUST FOR FUN

### Swedish Angels

(Anglakakor, a Christmas cookie; children help roll the dough and dip them, and then can use a cookie stamp on them)

Note: You can find cookie stamps at gourmet shops or kitchen specialty stores; you can also use the bottom of a glass.

2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup shortening  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat your oven to 350 F. Grease 3-4 large baking sheets. In a medium bowl, combine flour, soda, cream of tartar, and salt. In a large bowl, beat shortening, butter, and sugars and light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture, 1/2 cup at a time. Blend well after each addition. Place an additional cup of white sugar in a small bowl. Fill a second small bowl with cool water. Roll teaspoons of dough into 1- inch balls. Drop tops of balls first in water and then in sugar. Arrange, sugared side up and 1 inch apart on a baking sheets. Use the bottom of a glass or a decorative cookie stamp to flatten balls. Bake 11 minutes or until golden. Cool on racks and store at room temperature for up to 1 week. Makes about 5 dozen.

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