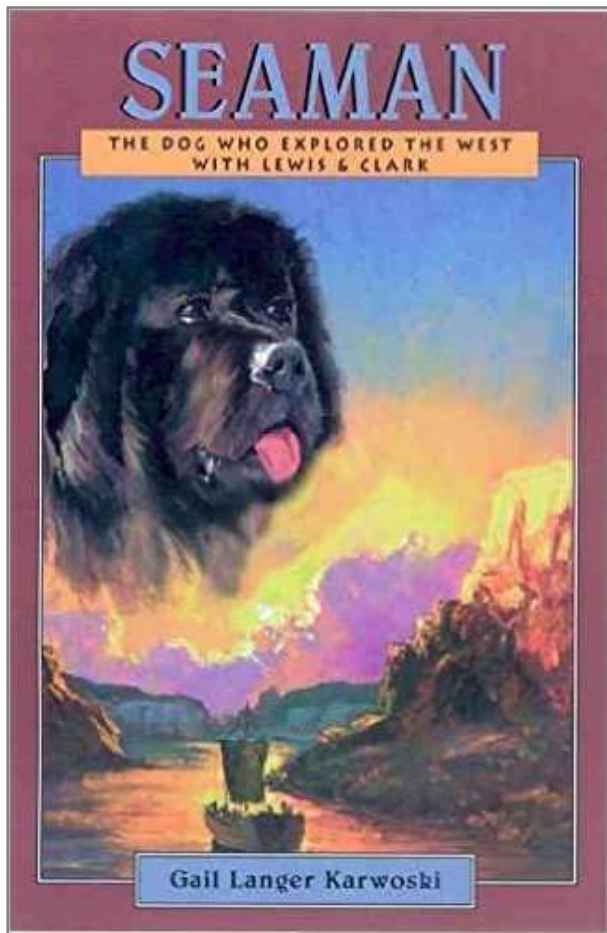


The Artios Home Companion Series  
Literature and Composition

***Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West  
With Lewis and Clark***

by Gail Langer Karwaski  
Literature For Units 20 – 23



In this unit we will accompany Lewis and Clark on their journeys westward, through the eyes of their furry, faithful companion, as we discuss the perils and excitement of westward expansion. Our writing projects will take a modern twist as we give reflections and summaries of the book's content, social media style.

*Seaman* tells the story of the famous explorers Lewis and Clark as they journey westward across America to reach the Pacific Ocean and back. This expedition, though, has an unexpected and fictionalized member of the team; a 150-pound Newfoundland dog, who not only accompanies the team, but plays an active role in their adventures.

**Be Sure to Notice...**

This book includes a series of historically accurate maps at the back of the book. It would be quite beneficial for you to examine these maps as you read.

**Context Resources**

The life of an explorer was not always what it was cracked up to be! While it was surely full of thrills and excitement, it could also be full of miserable days and nights, danger, and disappointment. Visit the **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website to find extra opportunities to explore the life of explorers in general, as well as specifics about the Lewis and Clark expeditions.

## Unit 20 – Assignments

### Literature

- Begin by completing an author profile for **Gail Langer Karwaski**. You will find an **Author Profile Page** within the **Language Arts Resources** section of the **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website. You can find information about the author through various Internet sources; but make sure you get a parent’s permission before accessing the Internet.
- Read Chapters 1-5 in *Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West With Lewis and Clark*.

### Composition

- Create a “Seaman Social Media Journal.”
  - Staple about 10 pages of lined paper between two pieces of plain white paper or colored construction paper.
  - Create a title on the front cover.

Throughout this book, we will practice giving summaries of, and reactions to, what we’re reading. For these first five chapters, you will be giving them in the style of Twitter, which is a social media site where updates are given by users in short (no more than 140 characters) form. These short updates are called “tweets.”

- For your writing assignment in this unit, you should write at least three “tweets” per chapter into your Social Media Journal in real time, which means giving your readers updates about what is happening in the chapter as you are reading.
- You should also include at least two reaction “tweets” per chapter, telling how you feel or what are you thinking about the adventures that are taking place.

Remember, each of these must be no more than 140 characters, which includes letters, punctuation, and spaces. For instance, if you were to live tweet the first scene in the story of the Three Little Pigs, it might go something like this:

#1 Just saw pig walk by with a load of straw. Really?

#2 Getting weirder around here. One pig pushing wheelbarrow of sticks, and another with bricks.

#3 Now there’s a wolf slinking along the path. This could be trouble!

#4 Extremely concerned about the safety of these defenseless pigs. Should I call 9-1-1?

#5 Am I the only person who has these things happen to them? I feel like I live in an altered reality.

## Unit 21 – Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- Read Chapters 6-10 in *Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West With Lewis and Clark*.

**Activity while reading:** In your Social Media Journal, write at least three detailed status updates per chapter of your reading assignment as you are reading. Try to ensure that these updates give a general summary about the main events of the chapter.

For example: If we were to “live update” the Three Little Pigs scene that we used with the first set of chapters, it might look something like this:

#1 I’m hoping someone can tell me that I’m not crazy. I was just driving down the road, and I saw a pig walking down the road, carrying a huge load of straw between his front legs. He really seemed like he was on a mission! Have any of you ever seen something like this?

#2 It’s happening again! This time there were two pigs, one about a mile down the road from the other. The first was pushing a wheelbarrow filled to overflowing with sticks, and the next one was struggling with a wheelbarrow that was full-to-the-brim with bricks. I’m starting to feel like I’m living in a fairy tale!

#3 The plot keeps thickening. Out of the corner of my eye I just saw a sleek, gray wolf slinking down the side of the road. I could be imagining it, but it really seemed like he was stalking those pigs ahead of him. Do you guys think I should call someone? The police? Animal control, maybe? I’m just getting a feeling in the pit of my stomach that I’m going to see something about this in the evening news.

## Unit 22 – Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- Finish reading *Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West With Lewis and Clark*.

For our final two units on *Seaman*, we’re going to give final reflections about the journey that Seaman took with Lewis and Clark, Instagram-style. Instagram is a social media site that allows its users to take pictures, alter them, and share them with their friends. After you have finished reading the book, look at the world around you for images that illustrate a character, character’s motivation, theme, event, or idea from *Seaman*. For instance, you might see a large crack in a road that reminds you of Lewis and Clark crossing the Continental Divide or raindrops rolling down a window that reminds you of the sorrow of the group parting ways.

- Take four pictures, à-la-Instagram, print them, and glue them into your Social Media Journal. These pictures can be staged if necessary, but naturally occurring images are the best. Think creatively!
- Underneath each picture, write a few sentences about their significance.

## Unit 23 - Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- Read the Author's Note and Resources at the back of *Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West With Lewis and Clark*.

Now that you have a journal full of the events of our book and the thoughts and emotions they have provoked, you're going to refer to all of those as you write a book review. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) allows its customers to write reviews of the books that they have read, and to assign that book a ranking from 1-5 stars.

- In your first paragraph, briefly introduce the main characters in the book. Try to think carefully, and describe their personality and character, not just what they do.
- In your second paragraph, give an overview of the major events in the book. Look back through your tweets, status updates, and images and pick the events that you feel are the most significant and briefly describe them. You might think about covering events that occur near the beginning, middle, and end of Seaman's story.
- In your last paragraph, give your final recommendation of *Seaman*, either positive or negative. You need to back up your recommendation with your thoughts and feelings about the events and characters in the book. This is another great place for you to look back through your journal to recall what you were thinking and feeling while you were reading.
- Lastly, draw 5 stars, and color in as many as you would choose to indicate your personal ranking of the book.
- After you have written your review, edit it with the help of a parent or teacher, and copy it into your Social Media Journal. With the permission of a parent, you might desire to add your review to the *Seaman* page on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

