**Podcast B ,** ( 5 minutes )

**Podcast for Lesson 4**

Oh Susanna music in background…

Louisa: There, that finishes that letter…I hope it doesn’t take as long to get to Molly as the last one did. I guess it’s amazing that letters are delivered at all, if I think about it. It’s hard to believe I’m out here on the west coast with my sister and the rest of my family all the way across the country on the east coast.

Oh my, I’m talking to myself! I think I had better take a walk. Maybe I’ll see the children. I know they worked very hard on the assignments that Praiseworthy gave them. I’ll see what they are up to…

Children’s voices in the background: go, Thomas, go….yea! faster (as if racing each other).

Louisa: Wow, you are really getting your exercise!

Children: (overlapping – greeting) Oh, Hello Mrs. Clapp. We haven’t seen you for a long time. Hi!

Louisa: It’s good to see you out playing. Arabella told me that all of you worked extremely hard on your assignments. It’s time to have some fun!

Jack: Not for long Mrs. Clapp. Aunt Arabella says we have only touched the surface, whatever that means!

Constance: That’s right. Praiseworthy is very busy working on a case. So Aunt Arabella is the one giving another assignment!

Thomas: Miss Arabella gave me an assignment too. Figure I want to be smart like my friends!

Jack: We will all be smarter, Thomas!

Louisa: What is the assignment?

Sarah: I don’t know, something about “govments”?

Constance: That’s pretty close, Sarah…We are going to study the structures of the government, set up by the United States Constitution and the California Constitution.

Jack: Yes, Praiseworthy says now that we have some understanding of the problems facing our “boomtown” of San Francisco, we need to understand how the government works.

Thomas: Otherwise, how can the problems be solved?

Constance: True ~ it’s kind of like when you play a game. If you don’t know the rules and how the game is to be played, everything is crazy, and no one knows what to do!

Sarah: I know what to do!

Louisa: Good for you, Sarah. What would you do?

Sarah: I would help make good rules!

Jack: Well, Praiseworthy says there are already some rules.

Thomas: True, the problem is that people are not following them!

Louisa: Do you children know about the rules? Do you understand about the structure of the government?

Thomas: Well no,

Constance: Not really.

Jack: We’ve heard that there are some…

Constance: In fact, we have a lesson by Aunt Arabella this afternoon. Oh, oh, we better run faster than ever…I think we are late for our lesson!

Children running off: Bye, Mrs. Clapp ~ we will let you know what we have learned, see you soon, I hope!

Sarah: (stayed behind) Mrs. Clapp…

Louisa: Yes, Sarah…are you okay?

Sarah: Yes, but…well, I was hoping you could tell me another story?

Louisa: I don’t want to get you in trouble. I believe that your Aunt Arabella is waiting for you. But I promise another story very soon.

Sarah: Okay (sadly). But I would rather hear a story now…

Louisa Clapp: Better hurry, Sarah! I’ll see you for that story very soon!

Sarah: Bye!

Jack: Oh, there you are, Sarah…run along, Aunt Arabella was worried about you.

Sarah: Okay.

Jack: Mrs. Clapp, I wanted to alert you to something that we are kind of worried about.

Louisa: What’s that, Jack?

Jack: Well, on the ship on the way over here, Praiseworthy and I were unfortunate to meet a thief, a slimy kind of guy by the name of Cut Eye Higgins. Praiseworthy has heard that Cut Eye is in our area with a new job: he is now a slave catcher!

Louisa: A Bloodhound…How dreadful!

Jack: Bloodhound?

Louisa: Oh, Bloodhound is just another word used for slave catchers who track African Americans down like they are dogs after their prey.

Jack: I get it! Well, what is worse is that he has been sneaking around Thomas’ house. Watching them like a hawk!

Louisa: But I thought Thomas’ family got their freedom when they came here.

Jack: They did; but Praiseworthy says that Cut Eye Higgins isn’t above kidnapping. And by law, African Americans cannot even testify in court! How would they be able to prove they were free if they didn’t get the chance to tell a judge? Cut Eye could take them back to the south and sell each one of them to a different owner, getting a tidy sum of money.

Louisa: Oh, this is a horrendous problem! I promise to keep my eyes open and let you know if I see anything suspicious!

Jack: Thank you, Mrs. Clapp…I will let you know what we discover. We’re going to learn a lot about our new government and we might be able to help Praiseworthy with some of the book laws. I better run…

Louisa: Yes, Jack. I would like to help. I will keep my eyes peeled!

Oh Susanna music in background…