

Hope's Gift

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Civil War, Slavery, Freedom, Family

Book Brief: Hope's father sneaks away to fight for the Union army. While he's gone, she listens to the sound of freedom from inside a conch shell, dreaming of the day that her family will be reunited.

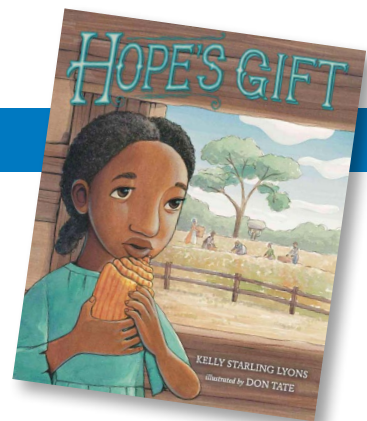
Author: Kelly Starling Lyons

Illustrator:

Don Tate

Content Connections:

Social Studies,
Science, Geography



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and cover illustration. What is Hope's gift? Who do you think gave it to her?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. What do the illustrations tell you about the time period during which this story takes place?

Prior Knowledge: Discuss with students what the term "freedom" means. Why was it an important term during the Civil War? What does it mean for people today? When was the Civil War? When did it end? What were people fighting over? Where is the story set?

Vocabulary: Civil War, Union, Confederacy, Emancipation Proclamation

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about the overall theme for this story. Most stories have more than one theme—does this one?

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What was Hope worried about when Papa said he was leaving?
- ◆ Had they ever been apart before? What clues let you know?
- ◆ Why was it important for Hope's father to leave?
- ◆ What risk was he taking by leaving?
- ◆ How was Hope able to connect with the Master's daughter?
- ◆ How does the author mark the passing of time?

- ◆ What is the significance of the shell? Think of three answers.
- ◆ What is the significance of the name Hope? Why do you think the author chose this name?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What did you think was the overall theme for the story? Could you find more than one? Is it okay for a book to have more than one theme? Explain.

Extending Our Thinking: Discuss with a partner why the author may have chosen the conch shell as a main symbol in this story. Share your thoughts with the class. What are some ways that Hope, her family, and her friends kept their hopes of freedom alive? Is everyone in America free today? Why or why not?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental