

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Create a "storyboard." Together list and sequence main events in the story. Have pairs of students choose one of the events to illustrate on heavy paper. (See Art activity.) Use story boards to retell the story to the class.
2. Write seed poems to go with the Science activity. Begin with a title and a few questions for your seed, such as "Mango Seed, Mango Seed, when will you sprout?" Add lines about caring for the seed and watching it grow. Illustrate poems and compile in a booklet.

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Hold a storytelling session in the Haitian tradition. To begin, the storyteller says the word, "Krik," and the audience responds with the word, "KraK." This exchange is an agreement that the storyteller will tell the best story he or she can, and the audience will listen attentively.
2. View photographs of Haitian children and a countryside in Haiti on the author's website. (Keyword: Karen Lynn Williams writes) Find the Teacher's Guide for *Circles of Hope* under books. Read *Tap Tap* and *Painted Dreams*, other books by the author set in Haiti.

SCIENCE

Make seed viewers to watch the germination process. (Keyword: seed viewers kids) Collect seeds from different fruits (including the mango seed, if possible). Plant and label each one in a different container. Write questions about your seeds and record answers in a class science journal.

ART

Look at the vivid colors the artist uses in the book's illustrations. Draw and color scenes from the story using pastels and charcoal, crayons, or markers.

Circles of Hope

Karen Lynn Williams
2005
Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

Loyalty
Haiti
Realistic Fiction
Reading Time: 6 minutes

CONCEPTS

Loyalty
Hope
Love

SUMMARY

This story of loyalty, hope, and love tells of a Haitian boy's determined efforts to carry on a family tradition. Young Facile must persevere and overcome environmental challenges and family hardships to grow a mango tree as a gift for his baby sister. His success shows how one person's actions can improve an entire landscape. Linda Saport's brilliant pastel and charcoal illustrations add vivid colors and moods to the story.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss loyalty, hope, and love, as they apply to the story and will explore ways to improve the environment.

After the Story

Circles of Hope

DISCUSSION

1. In Facile's family, what tradition do they follow when a baby is born? Does your family have a special tradition for welcoming new members? If so, tell about it.
2. Why is growing a tree so important to Facile? How does Facile show loyalty to his family?
3. What does Facile have to do to take care of his tree? What challenges does he face? Why do you think he doesn't give up? Who gives Facile hope when he is disappointed? Who gives you hope when you are discouraged?
4. How do people in Facile's family show love to one another? How do you show love to your family?
5. Look at the last two pages of the story. How do you think Facile's good idea spread? What good ideas do you have for helping trees, flowers, or plants to grow?
6. Would you like to be friends with someone like Facile? Why or why not?

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Haiti on the world map. How is it different from the United States?
2. Choose a loyal family member and plant a seed to honor that person. Take care of your plant and give it as a gift on his or her birthday.
3. When Facile has a problem he thinks of a good idea to solve it. Together talk about problems students face at school, such as teasing or stealing. Choose one problem, brainstorm ways to solve it, try out one of the ways, and report results back to class.

EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.
2. In Haiti, stories are considered gifts people give to one another. Ask if someone at home has a family story to give you. With permission, retell the story to the class.
3. Ask adults at home about a game they played as a child. With permission, share with the class.

JOURNAL

1. Begin by drawing a large tree surrounded by a stone wall on one journal page. Write names of people in your family on the tree. On the next page, write some ways you show loyalty to the people in your family.
2. Talk about family traditions. Write and/or draw a family tradition you would like to carry on. Share with the class.

VOCABULARY

Note: Reread the story and have students decode meanings of the words in context.

non
bon
espéré

kandélab
tikado
timoun

Tonton