

# Hand in Hand

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** American History, Multiculturalism, Diversity

**Grade Level:** 1st to 8th grade

**Book Brief:** This anthology presents American history through poems from a diverse group of writers.

**Author:**  
Lee Bennett Hopkins

**Illustrator:**  
Peter M. Fiore

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies, Art, Science



## TIME TO READ!



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

**The Cover:** How does the cover illustration give you a hint about the book's contents? What about the title? How can you tell history through poetry?

**The Pictures:** The illustrations in this text tell many stories. Show some of the double-page paintings by Peter M. Fiore. Ask students to predict what the poems in each section might be about based on the pictures.

**Prior Knowledge:** Choose one of the sections from the book. Provide the students with background information about that period in American history. Ask about the elements of a good poem. What types of poetry are your students familiar with? What do they know about rhyme scheme? Poetic language devices?

**Vocabulary:** (will vary with each poem)

**Purpose for Reading:** As they read a poem, students can contextualize it within its historical setting. Ask them to think about how the poem reflects the period in which (or about which) it was written.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why did Lee Bennett Hopkins choose the title *Hand in Hand* for this collection?
- ◆ How does each author draw a picture with words?
- ◆ What is the poet trying to say about this period of history?

- ◆ What type of poem is this?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "How did the poem reflect the period of time it was about? How did it affect your understanding of that era of American history?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask these open-ended questions: "Which poem did you identify with the most?" "How did you feel while reading?" "Which poem was the most effective? Why?" "How did the illustrations help you understand the poets' words?"

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.



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