

Hope's Gift

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Civil War, Slavery, Freedom, Family

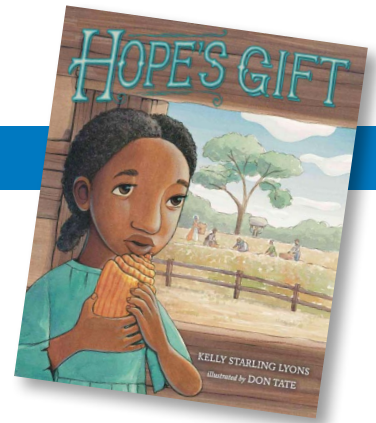
Book Brief: Hope's father sneaks away to fight for the Union army. While he's gone, she listens to the sound of freedom from inside a conch shell, dreaming of the day that her family will be reunited.

Author:

Kelly Starling Lyons

Illustrator:

Don Tate



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: What time in history is this story set? Do you know the date? Who do you think gave Hope the shell? Why might the shell be special?

While reading, make connections: Have any of your family members ever had to go away for a long time? Have you ever looked forward to seeing someone?

Have you ever listened to the sound of a large shell?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Hope's father have to leave?
- ◆ What dangers did he face?
- ◆ Why was Hope's brother having a harder time with the separation?
- ◆ What are some ways that Hope, her family, and her friends kept their hopes of freedom alive?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

HENRY'S CLAY MARBLES

Materials: 2 c. flour, 1 c. salt, 1/4 c. corn starch, 1/4 c. white glue, water, bowl

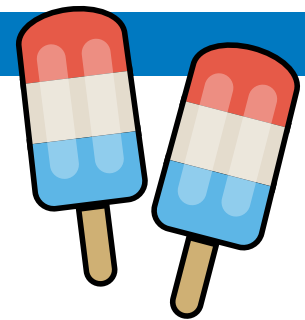
Mix flour, salt, and corn starch in a bowl. Pour in glue and stir. Add water slowly until the mixture forms a clay-like dough. Remove from the bowl and form a set of marbles like Henry's. What else can you make? Let your creations air-dry overnight.

FREEDOM FREEZE POPS

Ingredients: small box of white chocolate instant pudding mix; 2 c. milk; 1/2 c. of red, white, and blue chocolate candies; small paper cups; popsicle sticks

Stir pudding mix and milk in bowl until thickened. Stir in candies. Spoon into cups. Place popsicle stick in center of each cup; freeze until firm. Remove from freezer, peel off cups, and serve. (For a more

healthful option, freeze layers of red, white, and blue fruit juice.)



KEEPING IN TOUCH

One way to stay in touch with a loved one is to write letters. Write a letter to someone in your family you don't see often. Write about what you've been doing at home and school. Ask questions so the person can answer and write you back!

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Listen to *Now Let Me Fly*, the song Viney started singing the night before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Wn8TtECtaE.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Tea Cakes for Tosh (2012)

Ellen's Broom (2012)

One Million Men and Me (2007)



Reading Is Fundamental