



Hope's Gift

Kelly Starling Lyons , Don Tate (Illustrations)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Hope's Gift

Kelly Starling Lyons , Don Tate (Illustrations)

Hope's Gift Kelly Starling Lyons , Don Tate (Illustrations)

A poignant story celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

It's 1862 and the Civil War has turned out to be a long, deadly conflict. Hope's father can't stand the waiting a minute longer and decides to join the Union army to fight for freedom. He slips away one tearful night, leaving Hope, who knows she may never see her father again, with only a conch shell for comfort. Its sound, Papa says, echoes the promised song of freedom. It's a long wait for freedom and on the nights when the cannons roar, Papa seems farther away than ever. But then Lincoln finally does it: on January 1, 1863, he issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves, and a joyful Hope finally spies the outline of a familiar man standing on the horizon.

Affectingly written and gorgeously illustrated, *Hope's Gift* captures a significant moment in American history with deep emotion and a lot of charm.

Hope's Gift Details

Date : Published December 27th 2012 by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780399160011

Author : Kelly Starling Lyons , Don Tate (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Picture Books, Cultural, African American

 [Download Hope's Gift ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Hope's Gift ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Hope's Gift Kelly Starling Lyons , Don Tate (Illustrations)

From Reader Review Hope's Gift for online ebook

Michelle Schnell says

1.) Opening:

Begin by reading the Author's Note in the back of the book. It explains the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment. What do they already know about these things? Encourage questions and discussion.

Show students a conch shell. What do they already know about it? Do they know what it is? Can anyone guess what possible connection there could be between the Emancipation Proclamation and a conch shell? (Take a few responses.) I think it is important to provide a small amount of background information about what the conch is, especially the queen conch, which is the type of conch that creates the big shells like the one in the book.

Now play a CD with ocean sounds. Show ocean pictures (on an overhead projector) while the sounds are playing and let the kids discuss what the sounds remind them of. What are they hearing? (Wind. Waves. Etc.)

Tell the kids about the legend that says if you listen hard you can hear the ocean in the conch shell. Let the kids take turns listening. Do they hear the same sounds in it as they heard on the CD?

Now, looking at the pictures of the ocean, how could the ocean be said to symbolize freedom? (Take suggestions and ideas)

Well in this story a little slave girl's dad runs away to fight for freedom and an end to slavery and leaves behind a conch shell to remind her of him and to remind her that someday she will be free too, like the ocean.

Have you ever had someone go away and leave something behind to remember them by? (Take responses.) Did it make you feel better to keep that thing with you?

Well, let's see how the conch shell makes this little girl feel. Her name is Hope.

2.) Read some of the text to engage attention. (Author's Note.)

Tell the meaning of a key word. (conch)

Foreshadow the problem of the story. (The little girl misses her father.)

3.) I choose this book because it features a father who seeks freedom by running away from captivity and fighting in a war. I also chose it because it creates a powerful and concrete visual representation of freedom by connecting it, an abstract concept, to the ocean and the conch shell. My text set is called "I want to be free" and each book I chose examines the many ways that individuals and entire nations or groups of people can be free or be held captive and the many ways they have sought to escape captivity.

4.) (2013, February 15). Booklist. <http://www.booksinprint2.com.leo.lib....#>

Esther Yoo says

Through the exceptional writing and beautiful illustrations in Hope's Gift, Lyons brings to life the story of love and freedom.

During the first Christmas of the Civil War, Hope must bid a painful goodbye to her father. Hope's father decides to join the Union army in hopes of fighting for freedom. He promises to return and leaves a conch shell in Hope's care as comfort until he returns. As Hope clings onto to her father's promise, her character reveals the impact of love of a family and the blessings of freedom.

Hope's Gift would be an excellent resource to use to teach elementary-level students valuable morals and part of the history of enslaved people during the Civil War. This book reveals to us the importance of love of a family and awareness of the events surrounding the Civil War. Students may use this book to learn about the treatment of enslaved people during the Civil War. The may also be used to discuss about the history behind Abraham Lincoln's decision and the Civil War.

After reading this book, I definitely said, "WOW". The book's symbolic representation of freedom was beautifully crafted through the use of the conch shell and the sound of the ocean. I loved the abstract element to reveal the representation of freedom.

Stephanie Watson says

A story of the Emancipation Proclamation from the perspective of a slave girl. Decent writing but I felt like the cartoony nature of the illustrations took away from the message being conveyed.

Steph says

Maybe I just haven't had enough coffee yet this morning.

Maybe I didn't sleep enough last night.

Maybe Leo is rising under a waxing moon.

But his picture book and the slave narrative just aren't doing it for me.

Mary says

Hope's Gift

By Kelly Starling Lyons

** Children's Choice Award 2014

Copyright- 2012

Pages- 32

This book is a heartwarming story that will touch all people. It is centered around a young African American girl named Hope. Hope and her family are slaves that live on a plantation. They have a white master as was

common during slavery. Hope's father is leaving the family behind to join the union during the Civil War. Hope, her brother, and her mother are very sad that they have to say goodbye to their father and husband, they are hopeful he will join them again and their will be freedom. Hope's father gives her a gift that is a shell. When she is sad she listens to the shell that makes noise like the ocean. To Hope the shell sounds like the ring of freedom. This book touches hearts because it shows people, especially children what families had to go through during the time of slavery. In Oder to understand this book, a child may need background knowledge about slavery, Abraham Lincoln, and the Civil War. Overall it is a very touching book that is sure to capture your mind and heart. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Acelynn Perkins says

While her dad is away fighting for the Union during the Civil War, Hope longs for freedom. The young girl endures harsh workdays in cotton fields but never loses hope that she, her brother, her mother and father will be together again.

This book tells the story of a black family in the South during the Civil War who, like many families during that time, is confined by slavery. By showcasing the struggles between slavery and freedom, this book gives young readers a look into familial composition, socioeconomic hardships, and how life was for young children, slave or not, during the time period. Although set in a historical context and the characterization the slave narrative, the representation of black families in this book does have a more humanizing and soft, emotional portrayal. As an introduction to slavery and the historical context surrounding the Civil War period, this book is a good piece of literature.

I personally wish I would have had this book to make more sense of the Civil War and to get a better grasp of the reality of families during that time period. That being said, I would recommend this book to young readers ages 5-8, when they are starting to learn a little bit about American history.

Christina Carter says

Best line in a picture book I've heard in a long time: "That's the sound of freedom, Hope...And nothing can keep it from coming."

When her father answers the call to join the war, he leaves Hope with a beautiful conch shell. Gifts from daddy are priceless. A treasure to have and hold but this gift carries a promise, one that means she will see her father again, one glorious day when freedom comes. A promise she holds onto even when she fears he'll get caught for running away. Even when seasons come and go and daddy's still not home. In her greatest times of worry, she prays hard for her father, puts her ear to the shell, and lets the swoosh, swoosh sounds of freedom take her away until that fateful morning her dad returns and they can be a family again.

A powerful and important story that celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a hope-filled and heartwarming read that would make a great addition to every library.

Caroline C says

This historical fiction text is geared towards students in grades 1-3. The beautiful illustrations and thoughtful storyline capture a significant time in history. The story takes place during the civil war- a time that seemed to have no end in sight for most. However, a young slave girl, Hope, finds hope in the possibility of freedom. Despite many trials, this hope is what gets her and her family through these tough times. By the end of the story, the reader will be celebrating with Hope as she experiences the gift of freedom for the first time.

This book would serve as a great whole-class read aloud to introduce the concepts of slavery and freedom. Before reading the story, you could start with a quick book chat. Here is a trailer of Hope's Gift that might serve as an engaging hook for your audience- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3JPc...> This would also be a good opportunity to discover prior knowledge students have about these concepts. Teachers can focus on the story structure (i.e., characters, setting, conflict, resolution, point of view, and theme) deeper students' understanding of this book. Pre-planning higher order thinking questions before, during, and after reading will also help students dig deeper into the text. Following the read aloud and class discussion, students could write about the effects these concepts have on individuals and their families.

This is a book I am excited to add to my classroom collection! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Margaret Boling says

12/11/2016 ** I want to give this book a higher rating, I really do. As I read, I appreciated the imagery of the conch shell - the way the author used the swishing sound as a metaphor for freedom. I also thought the story line would be a good introduction to students of the role slaves played in the Northern army.

However - there's always a however, right? - I don't feel that I really *felt* the horrors of slavery, the feeling of fear when the children and mother were confronted by the master about the missing father. The ending also felt too easy - the unimpeded departure of slaves at the end of the war.

This book could be useful if partnered with other books about emancipation, the American Civil War, and runaway slaves. However, I think that if it's read in isolation, it can lead to too rosy a view of slavery.

Natalie Raymond says

This historical fiction book targeted towards first through third grade perhaps is an informative interesting story telling of a little girl who happens to be a slave during the Civil War. While 50% is somewhat sugarcoated, she does an excellent job of providing an insight to what it may have been like for slaves back in the 1860s.

It also has an author's note in the back that explains more about the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment. This serves as a great history lesson to introduce to students who are first starting to learn about slavery.

Even if it wasn't about slavery, it was still interesting to read and to see if Hope's father will come back from the war.

Ziwei Cheng says

This story is also about the release of slaves. The master hired Hush's papa to work on the coast. Before he left, Hush's father gave her a shell, telling Hush the shell's sounds of freedom. Hush finally found out her papa running away and he hoped her father could come back to save her. Hush always listened to the sounds coming from the shell and paid attention to the news her mama got from outside. One day Hush got a piece of news: president Lincoln said that he is gonna to free slaves on New Year. In that afternoon, masters called everyone in the house and said he was going to join the fight trying to stop Lincoln's plan. Late, in the New Year's Eve, Hush got a piece of wonderful news: slaves are all set free. Hush finally met her father.

This book talks about a slave's family stories. The whole events of slaves are seen from a little girl's view. The whole book uses the shell as the main clue leading us to enter the world of the heroes in the story.

The book uses the graphic styles to draw pictures. First, few pages of background colors such as dark blue and green are used. Apart from that, some other few pages mostly are covered by suing orange. In order to represent different moods, the painter use different colors. For example, dark blue means bad moods, desperation and a sense of lose. Green means calming and cool. Orange usually associates with fall season, passion and good moods.

The story has a good ending. Basically, this story represents the slave's history during that time. It's really a good story teaching children the slave's history.

Sierra Fresh says

Hope's Gift tells the story of a young girl and her family who are slaves. As we read the story, we wait along with Hope, for her father to come home and for the slaves to be free. The illustrations which were created with colored pencils and gouache, add details to the text and bring you into the story. This story could be added to a study of civil rights.

Hannah says

Hope's Gift is the story of a young girl who's father escapes slavery to fight in the civil war. It talks about her hardships as a slave without her father, and finally, her reunion with him.

Aiyu_Z says

Hope's Gift is a children book with crucial symbolism and honest depiction of slavery during the Civil War. Hope's father slipped away to join the war fighting for freedom, and the rest of her family stayed with her master to work in plantations. Hope kept the shell from her father to hear the sounds of it all the time, while she started to understand people around her, including the cruel master who also left his family for the war.

The book is worth reading as it is one of the few well-done picture books on slavery, a topic that mainstream publishers and readers might not prefer for many reasons. However, children of all races need to face the history and look into the future. The author doesn't depict slavery just as a fault, but significant experiences which tie families together and let them understand more about humanity and "freedom." The book involves symbolism as well---The name as "Hope," her dance, her shell---which will help children develop their sense

of literature. Besides, the illustrations are cartoon-style and set off the power of words nicely.

Jill Farr says

Nothing really unique about this story, however, the illustrations make it worth sharing as a class read aloud.
