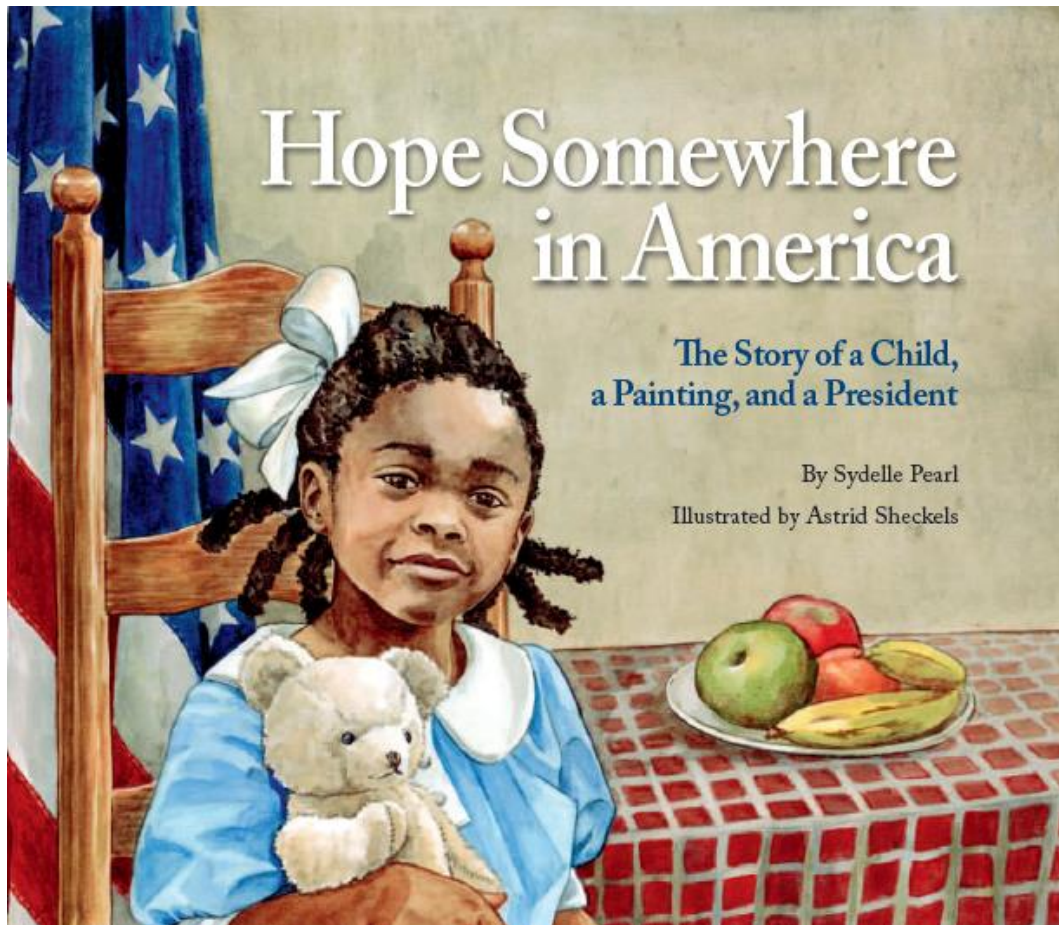


Teacher's Guide for HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA: THE STORY OF A CHILD, A PAINTING, AND A PRESIDENT written by Sydelle Pearl, illustrated by Astrid Sheckels, published by Twin Lights Publishers, Inc., Spring 2012. Teacher's Guide created by Sydelle Pearl, © 2011.



Born in Harlem during the Great Depression, a little African-American girl is named Hope Sequoyah for the promise of better times to come and the Cherokee chief who taught his people how to read and write. "With a name like yours, you must stand tall," her mama always says.

When Hope is five years old, her mama takes a painting class with Robert Brackman and Hope's life is forever changed. In her own words, Hope tells of how she gets another name and meets President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor—all with her teddy bear by her side.

This Teacher's Guide contains curriculum connections for grades K-5 and beyond to: Art, Reading, Social Studies, and Writing. Book Lists for HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA are available at www.storypearls.com for the following topics: Africa and World Connections, Aging, Art and Color, Artists, Art Museums, Books and Libraries, Civil Rights, Cotton, Genealogy, Great Depression, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Harlem, Labor, Mining, Schools, Sequoyah, Sequoia Trees, Spirituals, Teddy Bears, and Trains.

The book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA, is about the painting "*Somewhere in America*" by Robert Brackman.



The painting can be found in the book 1934: New Deal for Artists by Ann Prentice Wagner. This book is published by the Smithsonian American Art Museum and contains the paintings from the 1934 exhibit that are currently on tour throughout the United States. When the exhibit came to the Frick Art and Historical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the author of HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA, Sydelle Pearl, went to see it and became very interested in telling the story of the little girl you see in the painting.

Write down the questions you may have about the little girl you see in the painting.

Read the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA or listen to it read aloud. Were some of your questions answered? Do you have new questions? What are they? What story would you like to tell or write about the painting?

In the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA, Hope becomes a kindergarten teacher. Find the part where she shows her students the painting "*Somewhere in America*" by Robert Brackman and tells them the story about how he painted her portrait when she was a little girl. Then she has her students draw their own self-portraits. She puts them on display all around the classroom.

Draw your own self-portrait. Have a mirror nearby to peek into so you can see yourself as you draw. You can use a big piece of paper and a pencil with an eraser.

In the painting "*Somewhere in America*", Robert Brackman has included a still life and a portrait. What kind of fruit is in the fruit bowl in the painting? See if your teacher can bring in some fruit and arrange it in a bowl. You can try drawing this kind of still life.

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash of 1929 and lasted until 1941. Many people were out of work and stood in breadlines. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal initiative put many people to work building roads, bridges and schools. People were hired to plant trees. Writers were hired to write and collect stories, songs and plays. Artists were hired to create paintings, sculptures, and murals that still hang in post offices, libraries and museums today. Artists whose work was selected to be part of the New Deal for Arts Exhibition in 1934 had to create a work of art that had a connection to the United States of America. Robert Brackman painted "*Somewhere in America*" as part of this project.

Think about the country of the United States of America. Draw a picture, make a sculpture out of clay, write a song, poem, or story that shows and tells something about America. Give your work of art a title.

Open the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA to find an illustration of buildings in Harlem in 1934. Can you find a car, the fire escapes, clotheslines, carts, and people? How many birds can you count? Can you find the red, white, and blue barber pole? Point to the building where you think Hope lives.

Can you find the child sitting on the stoop in front of the green door? Write or draw what you think the child is waiting for.

Pretend the child can open the green door. What is inside? Tell or write a story about it.

Turn the page in the book and find Hope looking out of the window of her apartment.

Write down what she could be thinking about.

Draw what she sees.

Draw a picture of the view from a window wherever you live.

Draw a picture of the view you imagine from your window wherever you live.

Find the section in the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where Hope says:

I was born the year the Great Depression began—1929. Mama said that was why she named me Hope. Hope Sequoyah. Sequoyah was a Cherokee leader who created a kind of alphabet for his people so they could read and write. It is also the word for very old, strong redwood trees in California. "With a name like yours, you must stand tall," Mama always said.

What is your name? Who or what are you named for? Can you tell about it, write about it, or draw about it? If you were named for someone, can you bring in a photo of the person?

Find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where Miss Jeanette comes to stay with Hope while Hope's mama goes to her art class. The book says *"I held Clarence on my lap as Miss Jeanette read to us."*

Write about one of the books you think Miss Jeanette read to Hope.

Write the conversation Hope and Miss Jeanette had about the book.

What are some of your favorite children's books?

Write the titles. Draw the covers.

Write about a memory of someone reading to you.

Do you have a stuffed animal or teddy bear? Draw it and write about it.

Find the teddy bear, Clarence, throughout HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA. How does he look the same? How does he look different?

Turn to page 5. Why do you think Clarence is missing his right eye? Write a story and draw some pictures to tell about how this could have happened.

The book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA doesn't say how Clarence got his name. Write a story about this and draw pictures for it.

Find Hope throughout HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA. How does she look the same? How does she look different?

Find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where it says *Mama worked at the 135th Street Branch Library in Harlem, near our apartment. She was always bringing home books about Africa.*

Africa is one of seven continents. Can you find all of the continents on a map or globe?

The 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library opened in 1905 in Harlem. In 1951, it was renamed the Countee Cullen Branch, in honor of the African-American poet. Today, it is the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Find the part in the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where Hope's mother hums the tune to the spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" while she paints Hope's portrait. The words say:

"Hope? Would you sit for me? I'd like to paint your portrait."

It was hard to sit still, but I held Clarence and watched Mama paint. She was humming "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" is a spiritual—a song created in slavery times by black people and passed on.

Listen to the song "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" CD your teacher can set up for the class called A Life of Song by Ella Jenkins (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2011).

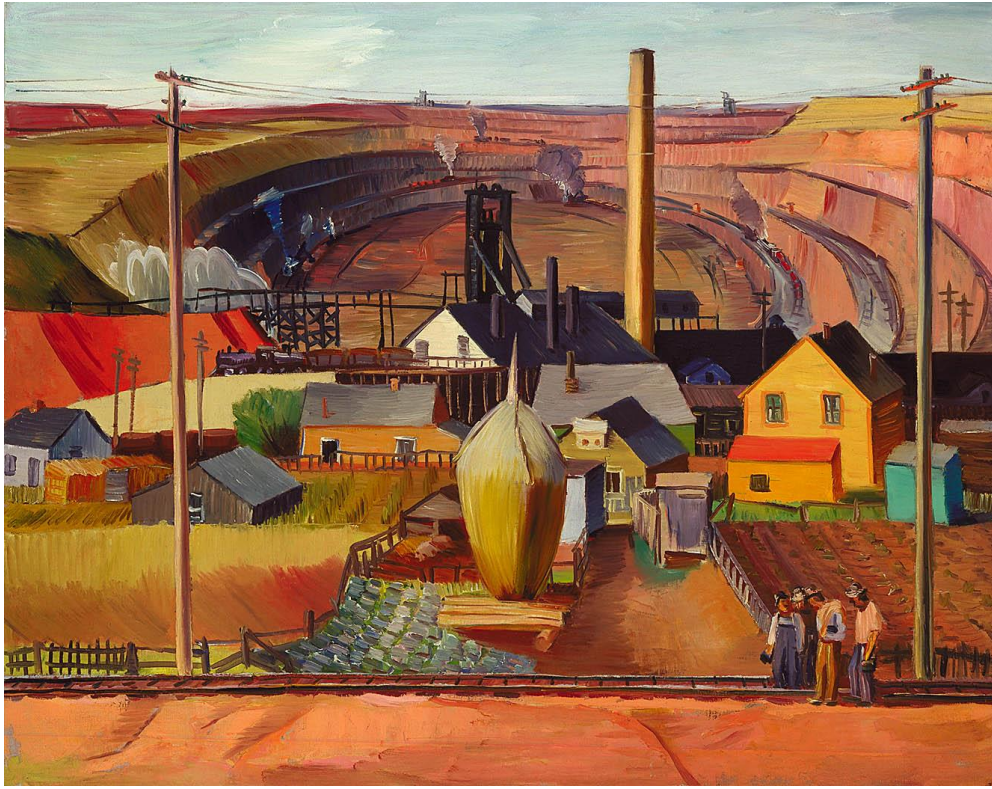
Find the part in the book where Hope and her mama travel to the Department of Labor Building in Washington, DC to take part in the opening celebration for the paintings, including the painting of Hope by Robert Brackman called "*Somewhere in America*."

The words say:

A lady wearing a black hat welcomed everyone. Mama closed her eyes and swayed when some men stood up and sang spirituals. I held Clarence up high so he could see all the people and hear the singing that was sweet as honey.

The woman in the black hat who welcomed people to the Department of Labor Building in Washington, DC was Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor from 1933-1945. She was the first woman in the United States to hold a Cabinet position. In the mid-1970's, the Department was moved to a new building, which was renamed for Frances Perkins in 1980.

Can you find the painting above the head of Frances Perkins? It is based on the painting by E. Dewey Albinson called *Northern Minnesota Mine*.



Check out the way the painting looks in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA. How does it look the same as the painting you see here? How does it look different?

Albinson was from the state of Minnesota. In 1919, he received a scholarship to study at the Art Students League of New York at the age of eighteen years old. What is the name of the painter who taught at the Art Students League of New York in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA?

Mining is the process of digging into the earth for metals (such as uranium, iron, nickel, copper and aluminum), minerals (such as sulfur, talc and clay), precious metals (such as gold, silver and platinum) and gems (such as diamond, turquoise and emerald). See the book Mining to Minerals by John Clark.

Coal is mined from the earth too. Gas or oil can be mined from some sections of land or the deep water.

Find Minnesota on a map of the United States. Minnesota is known for its iron ore and taconite (lower grade iron ore). Taconite pellets are used to make steel. Iron makes the dirt have a reddish tinge, the way the ground appears in the Albinson painting.

In the painting, can you see how steam shovels have dug away the iron ore and made a hole in the earth?

If the men in the painting could speak, what do you think they would say? What do you think they could be thinking about?

Find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where it says:

Mama and I travelled by train to attend the opening celebration and meet the President of the United States of America and his wife!

Clarence liked looking out of the train's wide windows...

Have you ever travelled on a train?

Where did you go? Who were you with? Tell, draw, and write about your trip.

Look at a map of the United States of America. Find New York. Harlem is a neighborhood in New York City where Hope lived.

Hope travelled by train from New York City to Washington, DC with her mama and Clarence. Find Washington, DC on the map.

Find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where it says:

President and Mrs. Roosevelt shook my hand.

"Hope Sequoyah," said the President, "you have a very strong name. It is just as strong as the name of the portrait, "Somewhere in America."

Then Mrs. Roosevelt held my hands and leaned down so close to me that I could see the flowers on her hat. "Hope," she said, "I wish you hope to do what your heart tells you."

Now find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where it says *"As a kindergarten teacher, on the first day of school I used to say "I wish all of you hope to do what your heart tells you."*

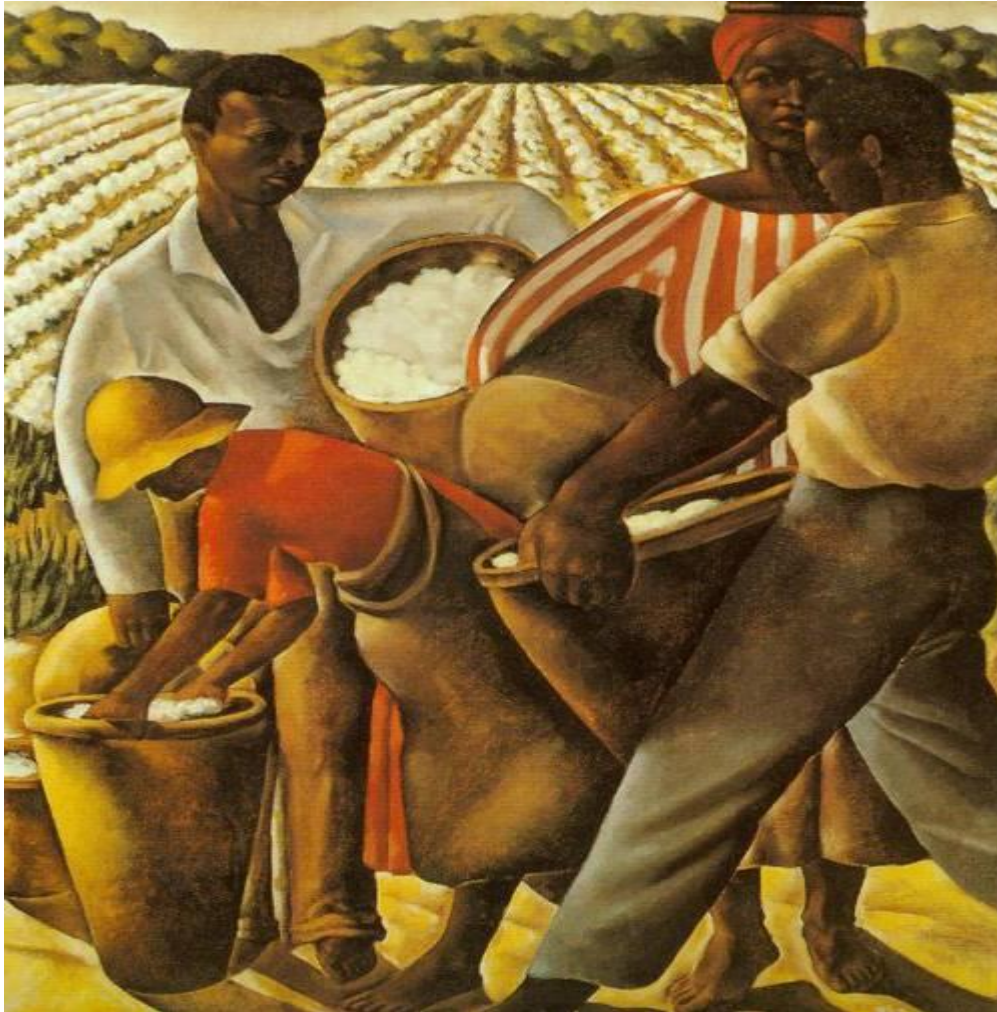
Write about a hope you have about your own life. Tape the hope to the bottom of your self-portrait. Your teacher can mount the self-portraits all around the classroom. Do you recognize your classmates? Can you read their hopes?

Find the picture in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA of Hope, her mama, and many people looking at the paintings on the Department of Labor walls.

Can you find the painting *"Somewhere in America"* by Robert Brackman?

On the same page, can you find another painting peeking out from one of the walls? It is called *"Employment of Negroes in Agriculture"* and it was painted by Earle Richardson, a young black painter from Harlem. Earle set his painting in a cotton field of the south.

On the next page of this guide, you can see the painting. What do you think the people in the painting are thinking about? Write down your thoughts.



Find the part in HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA where it says:

Mama and I travelled to Washington, DC once more to see the painting when it was moved to the Smithsonian in 1964. Black and white children looked up at it together. My heart was beating so loudly I wished I had Clarence with me to muffle the sound.

In the year 1934, when the "Somewhere in America" painting was on view at the Department of Labor Building the first time Hope and her mama saw it on display, black people and white people lived separate lives in the United States of America, especially in the Southern states. For example, they went to separate schools, libraries, hotels, and restaurants. They used separate waiting rooms, bathrooms, and drinking fountains. They lived in separate neighborhoods.

In 1964, "*Somewhere in America*" was moved to the Smithsonian American Art Museum. That same year, the Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress. It said that black people and white people were to be treated equally in the same facilities. Martin Luther King Jr. was a young black leader who helped bring about this law. In August of 2011, a statue in his honor was placed on the mall in Washington, DC where he led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963. The struggle for equal rights of people of all races and backgrounds continues in the United States of America and throughout the world.

In 1964, Hope would have been 35 years old. Her Mama would have been about 70 years old. Draw a picture of Hope as a grown-up with her Mama at the Smithsonian American Art Museum looking at the painting of herself as a child.

Write about the experience of looking at the "*Somewhere in America*" painting in 1934 in the Department of Labor Building from the point of view of:

--Eleanor Roosevelt

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

--Sherrise

--Hope

--Robert Brackman

--Miss Jeanette

--A neighbor who lives in the same apartment building as Hope and her mother

--Clarence

Now write about the experience of looking at the "*Somewhere in America*" painting in 1964 in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, based on the list above.

Write about Hope's experience of looking at the paintings in the travelling New Deal exhibition as an old woman of 83 in 2012, knowing that President Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor, her mama, Miss Jeanette, the neighbors from her Harlem apartment building, and Robert Brackman are all dead.

Pretend that one of Hope's former kindergarten students is all grown-up and comes to see the New Deal exhibition on tour and sees Hope, who is now an old woman. Write about the reunion that takes place between teacher and student.

Write a story about something else that was very important that happened to Hope during her long life. Draw a picture to go with your story.

Did Hope ever get married? Did she ever have children? Where did she live? Pretend that Hope is living now. Where does she keep Clarence? Where does she keep her copy of the painting *Somewhere in America*? Write about Hope's life.

Pretend that Hope has a copy of the book HOPE SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA. Write about what you think it means to her.

Please visit www.storypearls.com to learn more about Sydelle Pearl and her books.