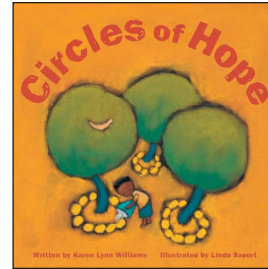




## A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR CIRCLES OF HOPE

This teacher's guide is designed to assist you in creating talking points and ideas for classroom activities in conjunction with school visits.



**CIRCLES OF HOPE**  
by Karen Lynn Williams

### THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- Family

What are your family traditions when a new baby is born? What did your family do that was special when you were born? What can you do for a new born baby in your family? How do you celebrate birthdays in your family? What other traditions does your family have?

- Hope

What is Hope? What kinds of things do you hope for in your life? What do you hope for in your family? Your country? The World? How does planting a tree show that Facile is hopeful? How can you work toward the things you hope for? How can you be more hopeful? What gives you Hope?



*These are the stones Facile used to build his circles of hope.*

- Determination

What is determination? How did Facile show determination? What were his problems? How did he overcome them? How can you show your determination? Is determination always a good thing?

- Ecology

What is ecology? How does Facile help the ecology of Haiti? What can you do to help protect our earth and keep it healthy? Why are trees important to the environment?



*In the Haitian countryside, family compounds are surrounded by a cluster of trees like those that Facile planted.*

### SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Science

Facile tries to plant a tree but he faces many difficulties. What things are important for a tree or any plant to grow? Try planting a seed in several different environments. Which seeds grow better? Why are trees important? What causes erosion? How can we prevent erosion?



## A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR CIRCLES OF HOPE continued

### SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS continued

- Art

How do the pictures in this book make you feel? Linda Saport uses bright pastels on brown paper. How does the illustrator show the emotions of her characters? Is this the kind of illustration you would have chosen for the story? Compare these illustrations to the very detailed illustrations in Karen Lynn Williams' other books about Haiti. Which style do you prefer? Try drawing with pastels on brown paper.

- Social Studies

Find Haiti on a map. What continent is it part of? What other country shares the Island of Hispaniola? Why do people in Haiti need to cut down trees for firewood? What would be some solutions for saving the trees in Haiti and other parts of the world?

- Language Arts

Think of a time when you had a problem. Write or tell a story about how you solved the problem. What did you learn?

- History

Haiti has a very interesting history. It is the only country in the world to have had a successful slave rebellion. At one time Haiti was a very rich country. Look up books about Haiti in the library and look on the internet for information. Why do you think Haiti so poor today?

- Music

Even though Haiti is poor and the country has many problems, the music of Haiti and the Caribbean is often happy. It has a unique rhythm. Listen to some CD's of Haitian music. What instruments do you hear? How does the music make you feel?



*School children plant trees like those that Facile planted.*



*Facile had to carry water up the mountain everyday, much like this young boy.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Williams is available to speak and share her stories on this and many of her other books. Please visit [www.karenlynnwilliams.com](http://www.karenlynnwilliams.com) for more information on the books and other information about Karen.