

ABOUT

the Author

KAREN LYNN WILLIAMS has written several books about the difficult lives of children around the world, including *Galimoto* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), *Four Feet, Two Sandals*, and *My Name is Sangoel* (both Eerdmans). Karen has lived in Haiti and Malawi, but now lives in Pennsylvania. Visit her website at www.karenlynnwilliams.com.

the Illustrator

LINDA SAPORT has illustrated many distinctive picture books, among them *Subira Subira* (Clarion), *Before You Were Born* (Eerdmans), and *The Face at the Window* (Clarion), which earned the Americas Award. Her work has also been exhibited in the Society of Illustrators annual show. Linda lives in Colorado.



PRAISE FOR

Circles of Hope

“This uplifting tale suggests that one child can make a difference — a powerful message for readers.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

“The vibrant . . . illustrations are rich with color and add an exotic, dreamlike quality to the story. . . [A] hopeful tale of family unity.”

— *School Library Journal*

CIRCLES OF HOPE

Written by Karen Lynn Williams

Illustrated by Linda Saport

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5276-2 ❖ \$16.00

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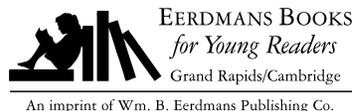
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If you have any suggestions for using
Circles of Hope
with young readers,
we would be happy to hear from you.

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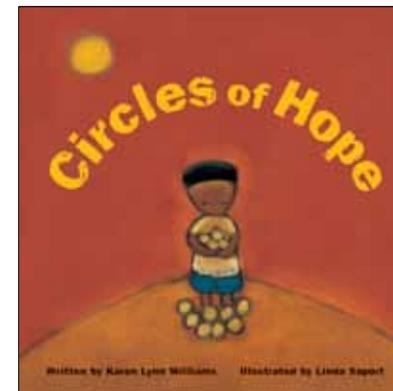
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Everyone brought a gift for baby Lucía. Facile sat high up in his mango tree and watched. It was the only tree on the whole dusty mountaintop. Papa had planted it for him when he was born. “A strong tree protects its timoun,” Papa said.

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Agriculture / farming
- ❖ Haiti
- ❖ Perseverance
- ❖ Family relationships
- ❖ Poverty

*Eerdmans Books for Young Readers
Discussion Guide*

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. What is special about a circle? Look around you and count how many circles you can find.
2. If you were to give the word “hope” a color, what color would it be? What would it look like?
3. What are some things you hope for?



VOCABULARY

Look up the following Haitian words in the glossary at the back of the book: *Bon, Éspéré, Kandélab, Tikado, Timoun, Tonton.*



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. What gift did Facile decide to give to baby Lucía? What helped him decide this would be a good gift?
2. Why was Facile’s mango tree special? Do you have a tree that you like to climb or sit in? What makes it special to you?
3. Why do you think Facile’s papa worked far away?
4. What do you think happened to all the other trees that used to be on the mountainsides in Haiti?

5. What kind of planting advice did Facile’s cousin give him?
6. Name the members of Facile’s family living on the mountainside. Who took care of Facile when Lucía got sick? How else did family members help each other?
7. How is your life similar to Facile’s? How is it different?
8. Why do you need hope to plant a tree?
9. What are some of the gifts Facile and Lucía received from the tree as it grew?
10. Why do you think the author of the story called it *Circles of Hope*?



ACTIVITIES

1. Learn more about the country of Haiti. Research how many people live there, what kind of jobs they have, what they eat, etc.
2. Try eating a mango if you haven’t tasted one before. Does its taste surprise you?
3. Make a circle with building blocks, pillows, or branches, sit inside it, and look at your world. How does it feel to be inside the circle? Now sit outside and look around you. How is “inside” different from “outside”?
4. Draw a tree that is growing in your yard or neighborhood. Learn about all its parts.

Label them. What must a tree have in order to be healthy and grow?

5. Plant a seed and study it as it grows. If it is warm enough, plant your seed outside. If it is cold, have an adult help you plant indoors.
6. The country of Haiti is on an island. Take a blanket, towel, pillows, or a box and make your own island. Sit on your island and imagine what life on a real island would be like. Have some friends join you with their own islands or let them join you on yours!
7. Read in the author’s note about how years of tree-cutting in Haiti have created soil erosion and made it difficult for the people there to plant new trees. This is not the only struggle that the Haitian people have had, though. With an adult, do research to learn about the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010. How has this natural disaster made life harder for the Haitian people?

