

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

1. Katherine Paterson has written numerous books for young people since her first work of fiction was published in 1973. Other than *The Great Gilly Hopkins* what books have you read by this author? If you have not read any others, investigate some of her other books. Choose one that interests you and explain what appeals to you about it.

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2. Katherine Paterson is well known for her realistic fiction about the lives of young people. Would you be more interested in reading another of her novels about a boy or girl? Explain your choice.

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3. Katherine Paterson loves to write stories based on, or inspired by, the experiences in her own life. If you could give her guidelines for her next novel, what would you recommend she write about based on what is happening in your life at the moment?

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4. If you had the opportunity to meet Katherine, what three questions would you want to ask her?

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5. Imagine that you are an illustrator, and have been asked to draw one scene of your choice from *The Great Gilly Hopkins*. Which scene would you choose and why? Illustrate your scene below.

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# Activity Two

In *The Great Gilly Hopkins* we read about two states other than the main setting of the novel; Gilly's mother, Courtney, lives in San Francisco, CALIFORNIA, and Gilly eventually moves to Jackson, VIRGINIA. Choose ONE of these states (one that you do not live in), and compare it to the state in which you live. (You will need to do some research to complete this activity.)

What do you already know about this state (either California or Virginia), based on information you have heard or read, or based on your own experience?

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Next, create a T-Chart like the one below and complete the questions for both states.

Question	My Home State: _____	State for Comparison: _____
1.		
2.		

1. Where is THE state located? Which states border it?
2. What is the state's population? What is the capital city?  
What is the population of the capital city?
3. Describe the climate of this state.
4. How does the climate affect the people who live there and those that visit it?
5. What kinds of animal wildlife is unique to the state?
6. What kinds of plant life is unique to the state?
7. What are the state's major industries?
8. What are some of the state's major tourist attractions?
9. Who is the Governor? How long has this person been in power?
10. What interesting historical event has taken place in this state?

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# Activity Three

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

In *The Great Gilly Hopkins* we read that Gilly lived with six different foster families from the time she was a baby through to the end of the novel. At the story's conclusion, Gilly moves in with Nonnie, Courtney's mother, and her life in foster care is finally over.

1. Do you believe Gilly's grandmother is doing the right thing by taking her? Why or why not?

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2. Investigate:

a) What is the purpose of foster care? Who can use the services in foster care?

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b) What is the difference between foster parents and adoptive parents?

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3. Investigate: What are the requirements for being a foster parent?

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4. People choose to become foster parents for numerous reasons. What do you think those reasons might be? (Try to come up with at least three). Hint: consider how being a foster parent would benefit a person.

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5. Would you ever consider becoming a foster parent? Why or why not?

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## Challenge Yourself!

Do some research to find a real life account by a foster parent or someone who was once in the foster care system as a child. Read about his or her experiences and write a brief summary of their account. Then, write down one or two things that you learned from this reading. (It may be a stereotype about foster children that you discovered is not true, or something else.)

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# Activity Four

**Through the character of Mr. Randolph, readers meet a person who lives his life very well without the sense of sight. In fact, there are many ways that people with limited sensory perception (like vision and hearing) successfully adapt to living without this sense.**

Some of these adaptations are to use different forms of COMMUNICATION. People with limited or no vision may use BRAILLE to read and write. People with limited or no hearing may use AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE to listen to and speak to others.

**Your task is to INVESTIGATE either Braille or American Sign Language**

Find as much information as you can about this topic.  
Here are some questions for you to consider:

- What is Braille / American Sign Language?
  - When and how was it created?
  - Who uses this form of communication?
  - For what purposes is it used?
- How is it being affected by the rise of technology (is its popularity increasing, decreasing or staying the same)?

Using good paragraph format, write a one-page report summarizing your findings. You may wish to include a guide to the codes or symbols.

Use the space provided for your initial planning stages.

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# Activity Five

There are many different kinds of families in the world today. For this activity, you will focus on the following five types of families:

Foster family

Single-parent family

Extended family

Step-family

Nuclear family

This activity consists of two parts:

## Part A

For the first part you will work in groups of TWO or THREE.

Together, come up with a definition for each kind of family in the list above. Then, **brainstorm** a list of the advantages and disadvantages of being a part of each type of family. Record your definition and ideas for each family in a T-chart like the one below.

FOSTER FAMILY:	
Advantages	Disadvantages

## Part B

The second part is to be completed **INDIVIDUALLY**.

From the list of five, choose the kind of family with which you are LEAST familiar. Using your list of advantages and disadvantages, write a **journal entry** from the point of view of a child living in this kind of family.

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# Activity Six

In the novel *Gilly* reads several verses of a poem, *Intimations of Immortality, to Mr. Randolph*. The poem is written by William Wordsworth, a famous English poet who lived in the Nineteenth Century. As suggested by the title, this is a serious poem, but poetry can be quite silly too.

**This activity consists of three parts:**

- 1. Find TWO poems** that interest you, one serious and one humorous. Your poems can be either rhyming or non-rhyming. They may be poems you are already familiar with, or ones that you find by reading through poetry collections in the library.
- 2. COPY out each poem in full and ILLUSTRATE them.** Remember to include the name of the poet!
- 3. Write a PERSONAL RESPONSE** to each poem describing what appeals to you about it, and how you feel as you read it. Each response should be at least a half-page in length.

## Challenge Yourself!

Choose ONE of your poems.  
Practice it until you can read it **FLUENTLY** and with **EXPRESSION**.  
Then share your poem with your classmates