



Idea Portraits

What Do You Do With An Idea?

This exercise was developed by 2014 Civil War Washington Teacher Fellow Beverly Blackmon, who is a 3rd and 4th grade gifted teacher in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. To find a complete lesson plan and materials, please visit www.lincolncottage.org/visit/education.

Artist John Williams created *Lincoln* (portrait on the reverse of this brochure) “to show how Lincoln might have been feeling with the weight of the world on his shoulders — tired and sad, but also determined to achieve his goal of a united nation *with freedom and justice for all.*” The ideas that President Lincoln worked on while living at the Cottage, and the action he took in support of these ideas, are among the many reasons we remember him today. President Lincoln serves as a model to all of us as we develop our own powerful ideas and problem-solving skills.

Grade Level:

3rd and 4th grades

Essential Questions:

- ◆ What are ideas?
- ◆ Why are ideas important?

Time:

One, 60-minute class period

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

- ◆ **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCR.R.1:** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- ◆ **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2:** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- ◆ **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.5:** Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- ◆ **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1:** Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Materials:

- ◆ Book: *What Do You Do With an Idea?* By Kobi Yamada (to purchase the book, visit <http://bit.ly/YqiCwX>)
- ◆ Construction paper
- ◆ Crayons or markers
- ◆ Glue or glue stick
- ◆ Scissors



INTRODUCTION

Ask students:

- ◆ What is an idea?
- ◆ Where do ideas come from?
- ◆ Why do we have ideas?
- ◆ What do you do with an idea?

PROCEDURE

Read page 1-2. Have students analyze the illustration.

- ◆ How does the illustrator represent the idea?
- ◆ How is the idea different from the rest of the illustration?

Read remainder of *What Do You Do With an Idea?* Discuss questions about the book:

- ◆ Why would someone act like an idea didn't belong to him or her?
- ◆ What does an idea need?
- ◆ How does the illustrator represent attention?

List synonyms for the word idea. (If necessary, use thesaurus or online thesaurus.)

Ask students to list ideas floating around in their head.

Have students pair up with a partner and share ideas.

Discuss:

- ◆ Did you and your partner have different ideas? Why is it important that we have different ideas?
- ◆ Did you and your partner have similar ideas? Why is it important that we have similar ideas?

Students create a self-portrait

(see <http://artsmudge.com/2012/05/how-to-draw-proportional-self-portraits-with-kids/>).

- ◆ Students cut head,
- ◆ Glue onto a piece of colored construction paper, and
- ◆ Illustrate the ideas they have in their heads. (See pages 3–4 for student work samples)

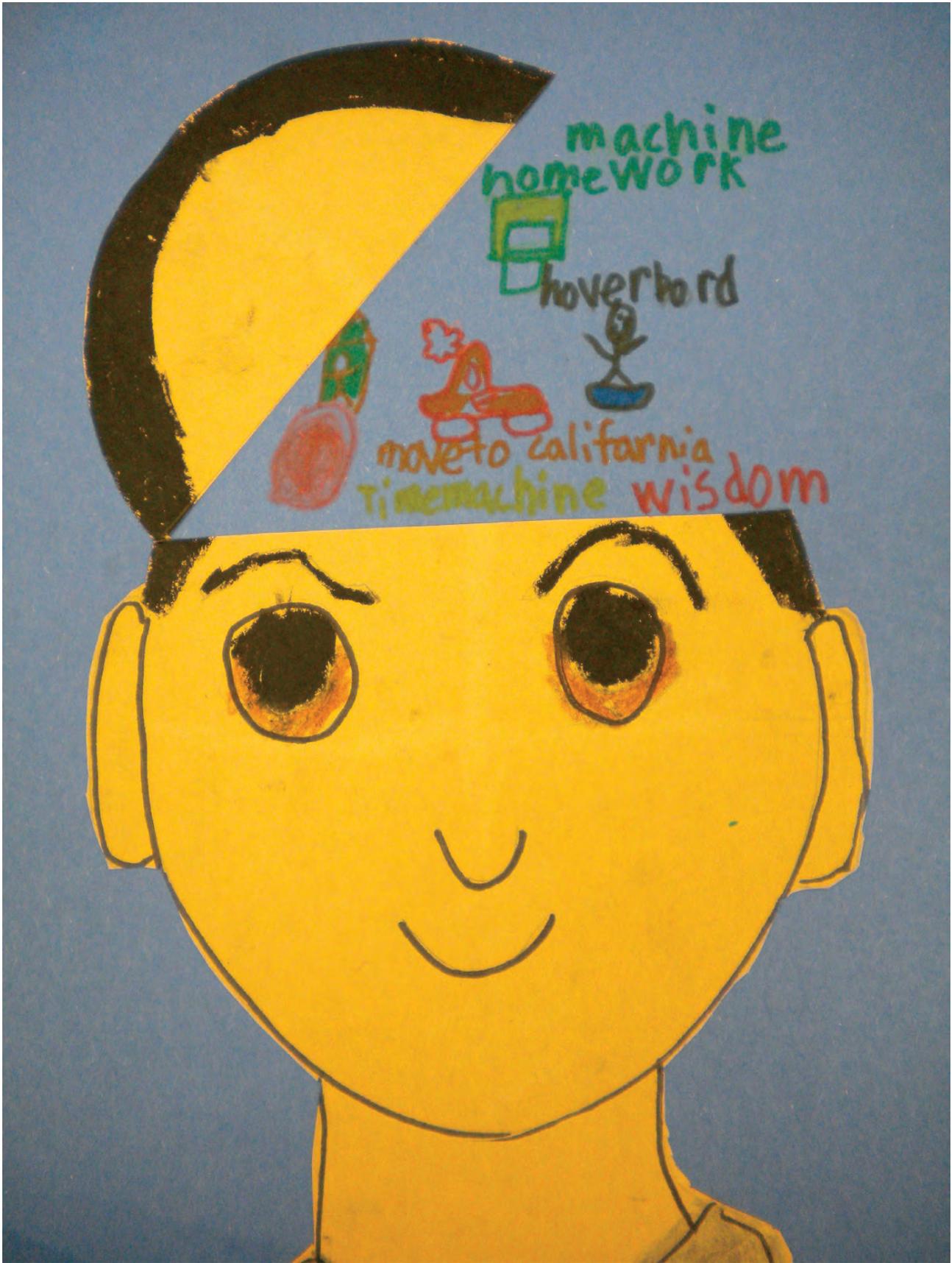
CLOSURE/REFLECTION

How will you give one of your ideas attention so it can grow?

Extension:

- ◆ In the book, the boy built a house without a roof for his idea so that the idea could grow. During Abraham Lincoln's presidency, he spent time in the Cottage on the grounds of Old Soldiers' Home as a retreat to give his ideas time and space to grow.
- ◆ View images of President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home and discuss the role the Cottage played as a retreat for Lincoln (see pages 5–7 for images of President Lincoln's Cottage).
 - ◆ **Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C.,** ©Library of Congress (page 5)
 - ◆ **Photo from Mary Lincoln's family photo album,** Lincoln Collection, ©Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana (page 6)
 - ◆ **Modern view of President Lincoln's Cottage,** ©President Lincoln's Cottage (page 7)
- ◆ Additional lesson plan: "President Lincoln's Cottage: A Retreat" from the National Park Service Teaching with Historic Places (<http://lincolncottage.org/cottage-featured-on-teaching-with-historic-places/>).
- ◆ Ask students to write a descriptive paragraph about where they would go as a retreat to grow their ideas.







Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C., ©Library of Congress

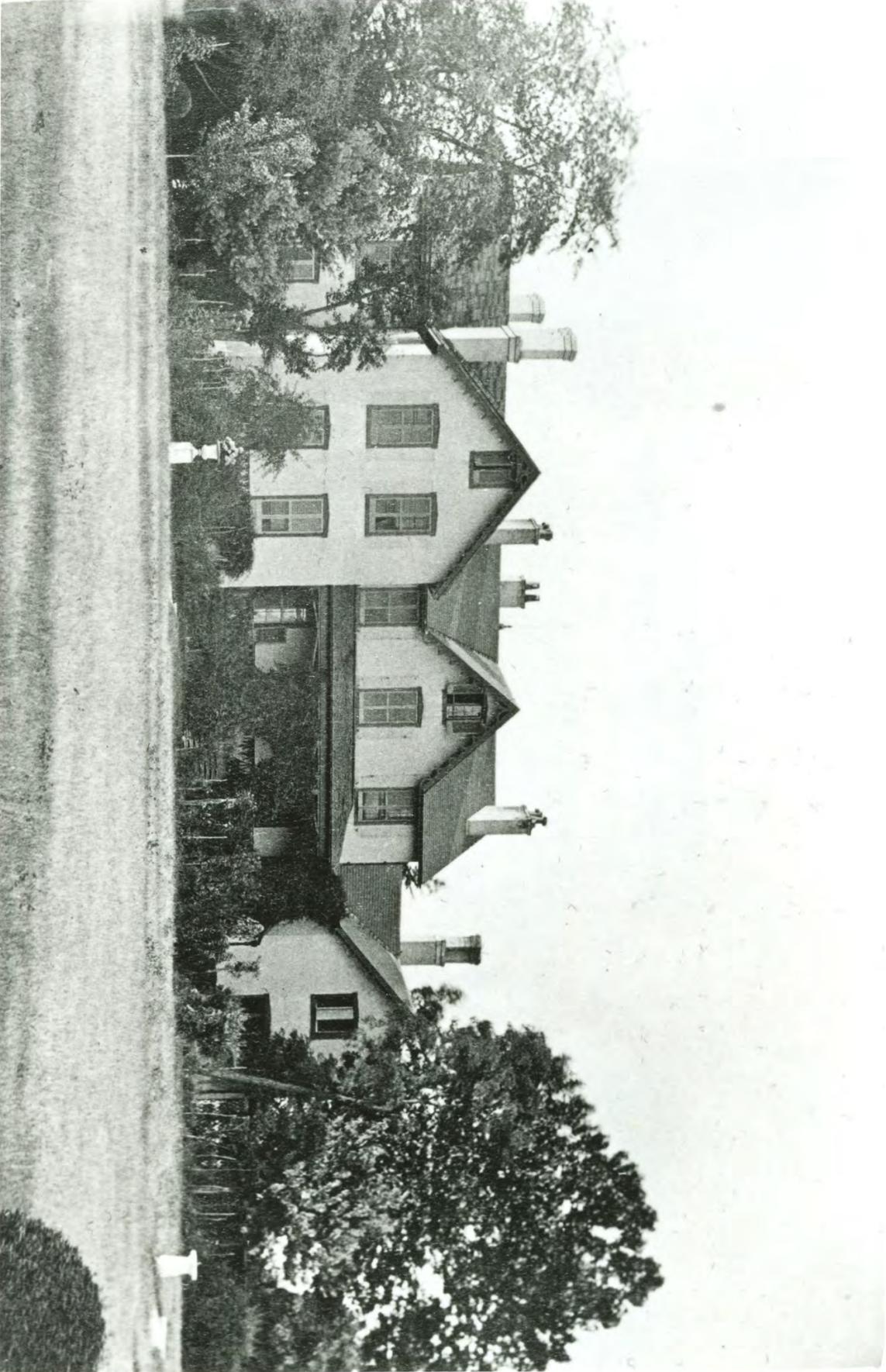


Photo from Mary Lincoln's family photo album, Lincoln Collection, ©Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana



Modern view of President Lincoln's Cottage, ©President Lincoln's Cottage