

# Interdisciplinary Ideas

## LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Read other books by Barbara Cooney and find out about the author's life. (Keyword: Barbara Cooney kids) Report to your class. Together write a Bio-poem about Barbara Cooney.\*
2. Read a book about Johnny Appleseed. As a class compare and contrast Miss Rumphius and Johnny Appleseed on a large Venn diagram (see *Teacher's Guide*). Together write a story about the two characters using information from the Venn diagram.

\* Visit [www.heartwoodethics.org](http://www.heartwoodethics.org) and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for Bio-poem instructions.

## ART

1. Create sponge paintings of fields of lupines. Use brown or green crayon to color stems and leaves on sheets of white paper. Dip small sponge pieces into purple, yellow, or blue poster paint to paint flowers on the stems.
2. Miss Rumphius aged in the story. Make pictures of yourself when you were a baby, as you are now, and how you think you will look when you are old.

## SCIENCE

Plant seeds. Draw pictures of your plants at different stages of their growth. Measure the growth and record on a chart.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Invite grandparents to your class. Interview them about their hopes and goals and how they make the world a better place.
2. On a physical map of the world, find oceans, mountains, and islands. Choose one of the places and tell why you would like to visit it.

## Miss Rumphius

Barbara Cooney  
1982  
New York: Viking

**RESPECT**  
U.S.A.  
Realistic Fiction  
Reading Time: 7 minutes

## CONCEPTS

Respect  
Hope  
Responsibility

## SUMMARY

We follow Miss Rumphius from youth to old age as she fulfills her goals: to travel the world, to live by the sea, and to make the world more beautiful. This warm tale of respect, hope, and responsibility sends the message that each of us can perform acts that will make the world a better place in which to live. The author's delicate pastel illustrations enhance the text.

## OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss respect, hope, and responsibility as they apply to this story. The student will explore ways to contribute to making the world a better place.

# After the Story

## Miss Rumphius

### DISCUSSION

1. Who is telling the story? How do you think she feels about her Great-Aunt Alice? Would you like to be related to someone like Miss Rumphius? Explain.
2. Talk about the kinds of respect in the story: respect for people, respect for the earth, and self-respect. Give examples of each.
3. With her grandfather's guidance, what are the three goals Miss Rumphius hopes to accomplish in her lifetime? Why do you think the third goal is the most difficult? What are some of your goals?
4. Why is visiting other people in other parts of the world a good thing to do? How does Miss Rumphius treat the people she meets in faraway places?
5. What could you do to make the world a better place? Could you make the world more beautiful by making people happy? Explain. What can you do now to make the world better? What can you do when you grow up? Who helps you think of ways to help others?

### ACTIVITIES

1. Locate New England, U.S.A. on the world map.
2. Talk about how you think Miss Rumphius felt when some people called her "that crazy old lady." Discuss what you think she did about this "put-down." Create a "lift-up" message board for Miss Rumphius. Write lift-up messages that compliment, encourage, or thank her and sign your name. Post around the title of the book and a drawing of Miss Rumphius. Change the message board by replacing Miss Rumphius with photographs of yourselves. Write and post respectful "lift-up" messages to each other.
3. Draw a picture of one way you could make the world a better place. Share your picture with the class and explain what you would have to do to reach your goal. Post on a bulletin board under the title "Making the World a Better Place."
4. In pairs, pantomime actions showing respect for the earth. Have the class guess how you are showing respect. List on a chart and post in your classroom.

### EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.
2. At home or school plant wildflowers in a window box or garden. (Keyword: gardening kids).

### WRAP-UP

1. In *My Heartwood Journal* list people you respect and people who show respect to you. Draw a picture of yourself with one of the people on the list and write a sentence about your picture.
2. Write about ways you can show respect by making your classroom or school more beautiful. Report your ideas to the class and try one out.

### VOCABULARY

**conservatory**  
**cockatoo**  
**lupines**

**tropical isle**  
**figureheads**  
**wharves**

**masts**  
**prowl**