

## Social and Emotional Learning Questions

### Character Trait: Perseverance

### Circles of Hope

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#### LEARNING TARGETS (Adapt LTs and questions to developmentally-appropriate level.)

- I can explain what the “Dedication” is in the front of a book.
- I can write my own dedication.
- I can identify the obstacles or barriers that Facile faced, and the steps he used to overcome them, solve his problem, and give his baby sister a “tikado” or gift.
- I can describe a time when I had a difficult problem and overcame obstacles to solve it.
- I can make a connection between the title of this book and the story.

The Dedication in this book reads, “In memory of Gwen Grant Mellon for the hope she brought to DesChapelles and Haiti and the remarkable example she set for those who knew her. KLM”

#### Writing/Journaling or Think-Pair-Share Opportunities

Papa planted “a strong tree” for Facile when Facile was born because a tree “protects its timoun” (children). But Papa was not around to plant one for Lucía when she was born. Facile had no “tikado” (gift) to give his younger sister. He wanted to plant a tree for her like Papa had planted for him. But he had to solve some difficult problems in order to achieve his goals.

1. Who has inspired hope in you and served as a remarkable example for how to work hard and do something well? What did that person do?
2. When have you inspired hope in someone else and served as a remarkable example of how to work hard and do something well? What happened?
3. Pretend that you wrote a book. Who would you dedicate it to? What would you say?

The first thing Facile did was to calm down, and then think. He dug a hole for the seed and watered it using a rusty can. ***What did he have to use as a seed for the tree?*** [mango seed]

***What happened next? How do you think Facile was feeling? How would you be feeling?***



Because the goat ate the seed, his cousin suggested that Facile build a fence of cactus to protect the seed. **What happened then? How can you tell from the illustration in the book how Facile was feeling?** [He is looking down sadly at the piece of fence and lifeless seed.]

Lucía was very sick and had to go with Mama to the doctor in the city. During that time Facile tried more strategies to solve his problem of getting the seed to grow into a tree. **Whose ideas did he try? What were they?** [Mama’s idea was to put a step in the mountain, and Tonton’s was to clear away the stones.] **What happened next? How do you think he felt?**

Tonton suggested that in addition to making a plan to solve his problem, Facile needed “*éspéré*” or hope. Then Facile had another idea. **What did he do to successfully plant the mango tree? Was it easy to solve his problem? Was he able to solve it quickly?**

After many months, Mama returned with Lucía and Papa. “What’s this?” Papa asked? A “tikado... for Lucía,” Facile explained. “A gift of hope,” Tonton said. Protected from the goats, the rains and the fires, the tree grew as Lucía did. **How do you think Papa was feeling when he saw the tree? How do you think Facile was feeling?**

### Writing/Journaling or Think-Pair-Share Opportunities

1. Why did the author title this book Circles of Hope?
2. Think about a time when you solved a difficult problem. What was the problem? Why was it difficult to solve?
3. What were the “obstacles” that you had to overcome?
4. Did you check out your ideas or solutions with other people before you tried them?
5. What were some of the strategies that you used?
6. How did you feel when you finally solved the problem?

