

Sweet Dreams, Sarah



Book Information

Run Time	9:45
Author	Vivian Kirkfield
Illustrator	Chris Ewald
Narrator	Marilyn Keller
Publisher	Creston Books
Ages	6–11
Genre	literary nonfiction, biography
Text Structure	third person narrative
Themes & Ideas	slavery, emancipation, invention, creativity, determination, persistence, problem-solving, biography
Sentence Complexity	simple, compound, and complex
Vocabulary	obeyed, property, clutching, patent, attorney, unique, mechanism, fate
Special Vocabulary	slavery, master, Civil War
Illustrations	Using a smooth, digital patina the illustrations capture Sarah's strength and determination.

Story Summary

Sweet Dreams, Sarah captures the essence of what makes a dream a reality in the moving story of Sarah Goode, incorporating both history and heart. Sarah was a forward-thinking woman whose name ought to be widely known, but isn't. Enslaved from the time she was born, she was the daughter of a skilled carpenter who could build anything. Sarah acquired her father's skills and a desire to help people. Sarah designed and built a cabinet bed. A desk by day, Sarah's cabinet bed unfolded into a bed at night. After overcoming obstacles, Sarah received the patent for her cabinet bed in 1885, becoming the first African-American woman to be granted a patent. Sarah Goode's determination and persistence provides an inspiration for all readers.



Lesson Focus
Determination

Activity Ideas

Research

Research slavery and the Civil War.

KWL Chart

Make a KWL chart to learn more about patents.

Sarah E. Goode

Research Sarah E. Goode.

Create a timeline of her life.

Matching

Inventions that were invented before 1900;

Inventions that were invented after 1900.

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.

Sweet Dreams, Sarah

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Discuss the story and write your answers together.

What is *Sweet Dreams, Sarah* about?

What do you think was Sarah's biggest dream?

What were some of the things Sarah had to overcome to realize her dreams?

What do you admire most about Sarah?

Is there anything you would work to invent with the same determination and persistence that Sarah had?

Sweet Dreams, Sarah

Pause at the indicated time stamps and discuss the story

1:04

Why was Sarah dreaming of a different life?

1:33

In what ways do you think Sarah's life changed when she was freed from slavery?

1:45

Explain how Sarah feels.

2:34

What job was Sarah doing?

4:46

Have you ever tried to do something that didn't work out? What did you do?

5:13

What do you think motivated Sarah?

7:09

Should being a black woman make a difference in Sarah being able to get a patent?

8:09

What does it mean when it says that Sarah slipped a piece of her heart in the envelope with the paperwork?

9:04

In what ways did Sarah make history?

After viewing the Book:

1. Why did Sarah choose to build a cabinet bed?
2. Why do you think Sarah didn't give up?



Drawing and Writing

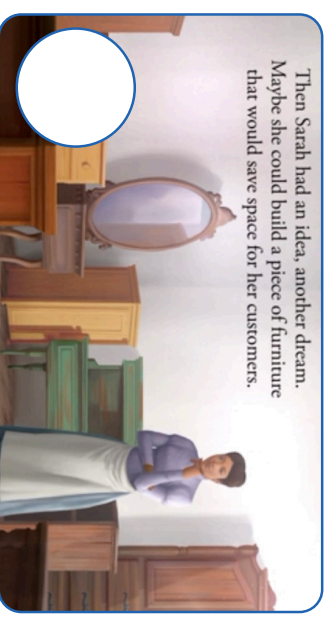
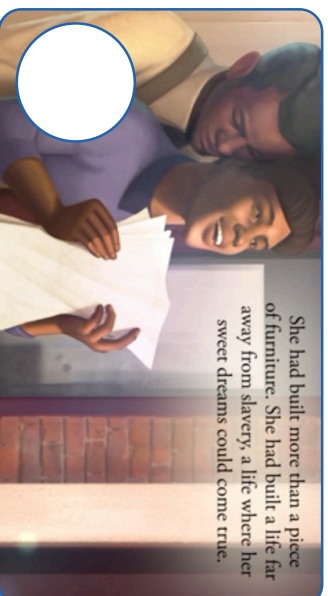
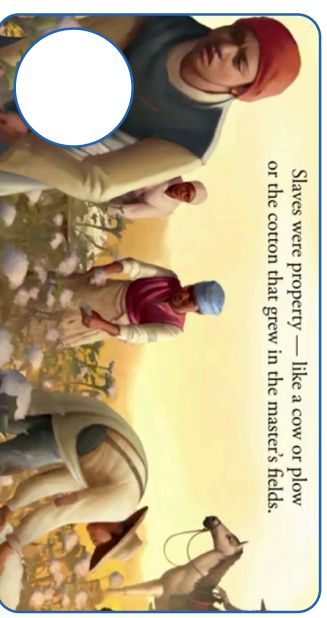
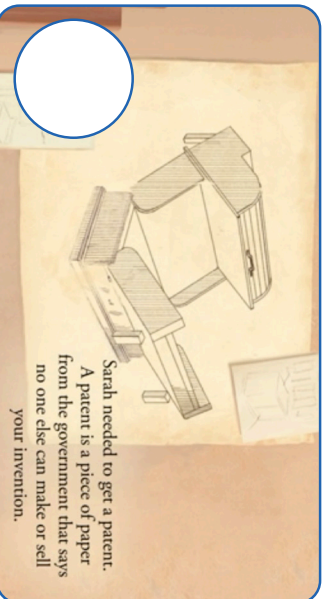
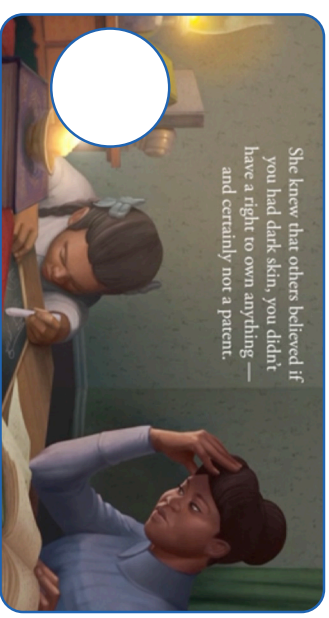
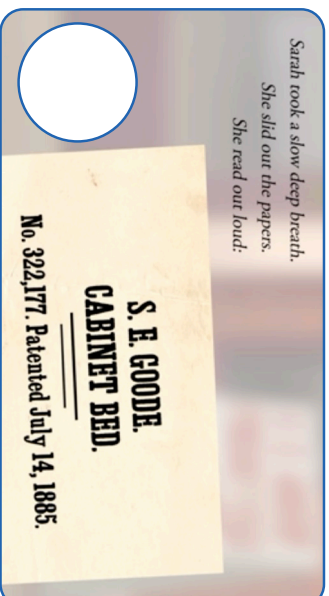
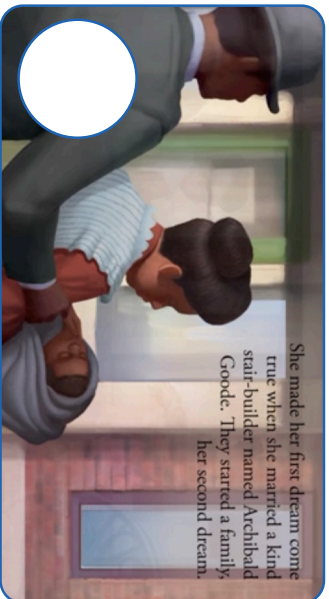
NAME _____

Write a story about an invention you would like to invent. Include why you want to invent it and how it would be beneficial. Draw a picture of your invention.



Sequencing

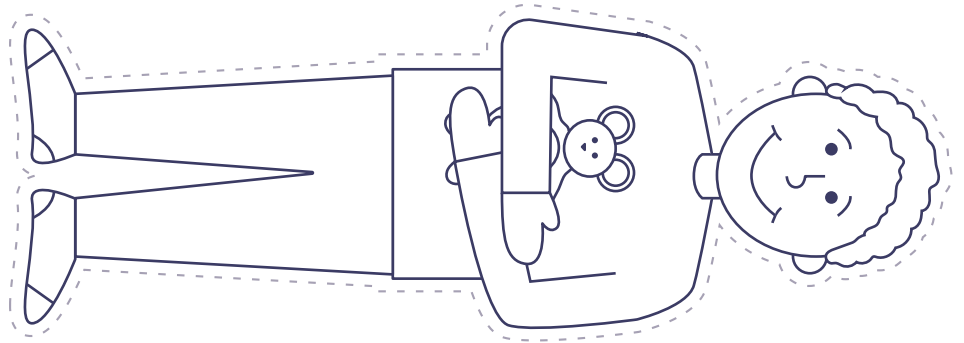
Place the 9 scenes from *Sweet Dreams*, Sarah in the order that they happened by placing 1-9 in the spaces provided.



Make Something

Materials needed

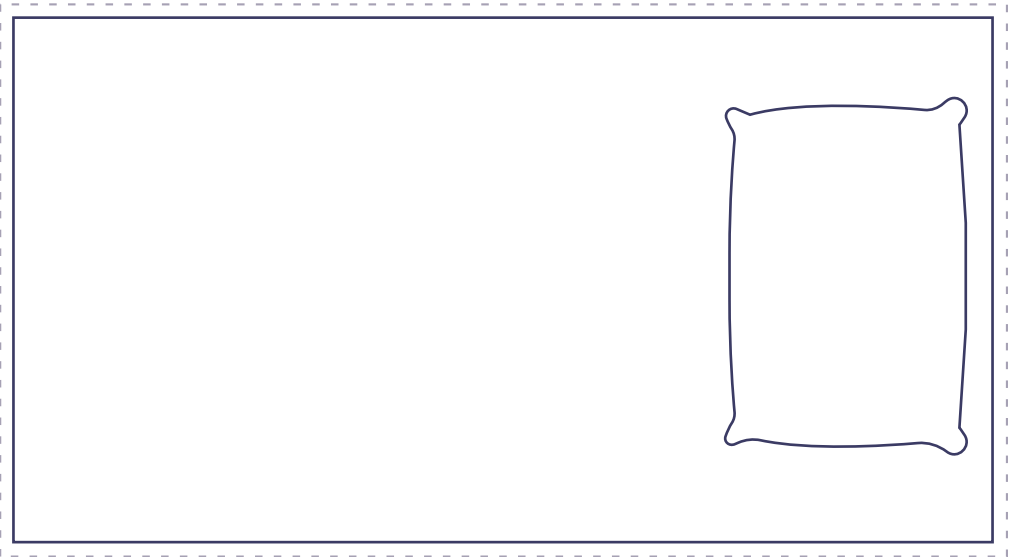
- Glue/Tape
- Scissors
- Coloring Utensils



Instructions

1. Color and cut out the bed, sheet, and child template.
2. Fold the sheet template on the three dotted lines.
3. Tape or glue the flaps on the sheet template you folded onto the back of your bed template.
4. You will be left with an open pocket on the front of your bed.
5. Place your child template inside the pocket (sheet) of your bed.

Bed Template



Sheet template

