

RUBY'S HOPE

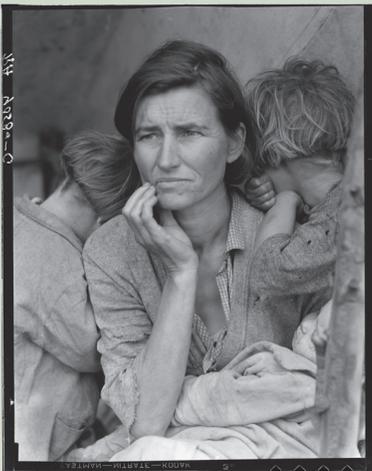
Activity Guide

In *Ruby's Hope*, a story of how the famous “Migrant Mother” photograph became the face of the Great Depression, dust storms and dead crops force a young girl’s family to leave home and travel to California in search of work. This historical fiction book reimagines the events leading up to Dorothea Lange taking the photo and underlines the importance of tenacity in the face of hardship, even if that means pushing hope to its limits.

Author **Monica Kulling**’s imaginative writing reveals the story behind this renowned portrait: a family struggling against all odds to survive. **Sarah Dvojack**’s accompanying illustrations breathe life into Lange’s photography.

Ruby’s story and these activities can inspire conversations about hope, migration, the people we look up to, and facts about an important time in American history.

ACTIVITIES



Powerful Portrait

The “Migrant Mother” photograph inspired many Americans, but even before millions saw her picture, Ruby’s mother inspired her family. Who inspires us in our lives? Ask children to draw a portrait of a person they look up to the way Ruby looks up to her mother.

My Hope

Ruby’s hope sometimes dwindled, but she could rely on Ma to encourage her. Ask children to think about some things they hope for. Discuss how we sometimes hope for things soon (I hope to go to the park tomorrow!) or for the far future (I hope to be a photographer when I grow up!). Then have children write about what they hope for tomorrow, next week, next year, and beyond.

Cross-Country History

Traveling down Route 66 from big-sky Oklahoma to green California, Ruby witnesses and experiences many key moments from the Dust Bowl era. Talk with children about the historical context of the book, and then ask them to complete the crossword that reviews significant historical facts and details from Ruby’s story.

POWERFUL PORTRAIT

Ruby is inspired by her mother's courage and hope.
Draw a portrait of the person who inspires you!



MY HOPE

What do you hope for? Write about something that you would like to happen or to accomplish tomorrow, next week, next year, and when you grow up.

Tomorrow, I hope . . .

Next week, I hope . . .

Next year, I hope . . .

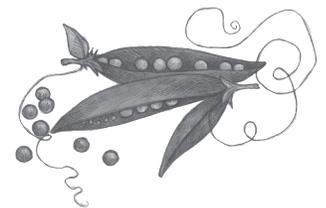
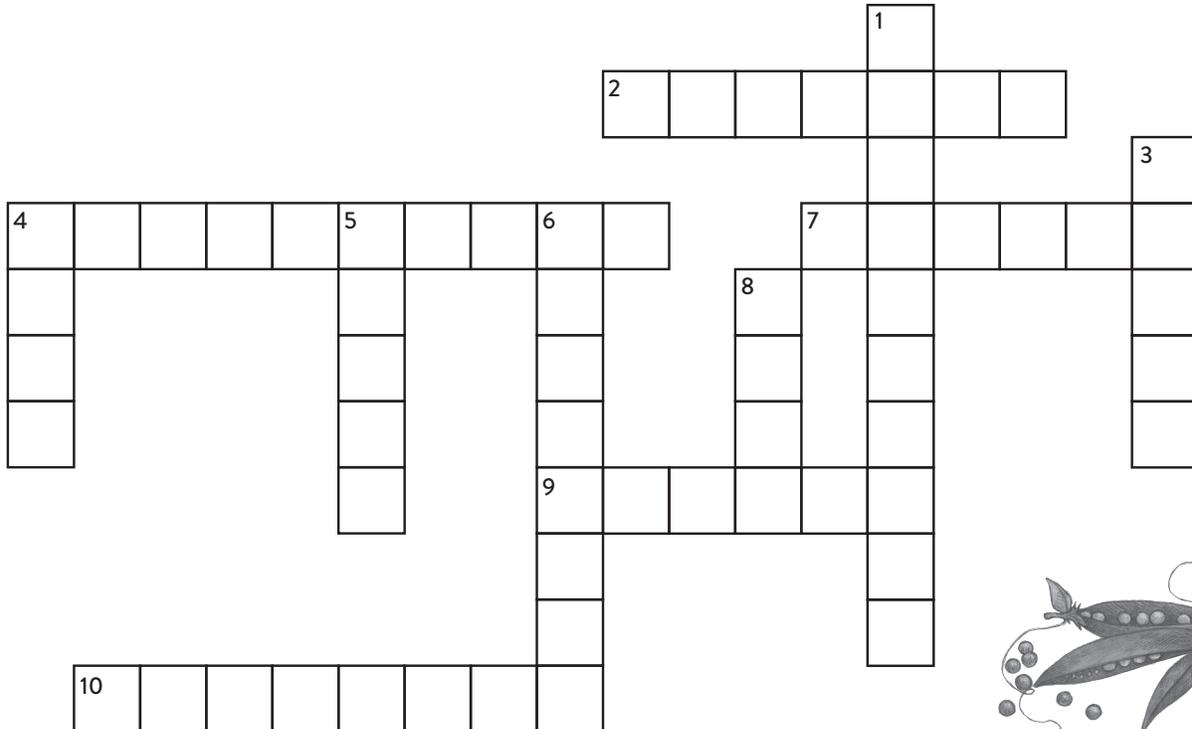
When I grow up, I hope . . .



CROSS-COUNTRY HISTORY

Do you remember the details of Ruby's story?
Use the word bank and the clues below to complete the crossword.

Stock California Migrant Dorothea Oklahoma
Route Peas Dust Nipomo Depression Hudson



Across

2. The name of the photograph is “ _____ Mother.”
4. The time period of economic trouble Ruby lived in is called the Great _____ .
7. The town where the family camps and has their photo taken.
9. The car Ruby's family drives is a _____ Super-Six.
10. Ruby meets photographer _____ Lange.

Down

1. Ruby's family travels to this state to find work.
3. Ruby's family drives across the United States on this road: _____ 66.
4. No crops could grow at Ruby's farm at home because the soil turned to _____ .
5. The _____ market crashed in 1929.
6. Ruby's family moves from this state.
8. The vegetable Ruby's family finds work picking.