

Bookfolio for **The Great Gilly Hopkins**

Author: [Katherine Paterson](#)

First Publication Date: 1978

Publisher: Crowell

ISBN: 0690038380

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

Story Summary: Katherine Patterson, the author of *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, spent her early life in China, where her parents served as Christian missionaries. In China she learned respect for people's differences. In *The Great Gilly Hopkins* she develops the theme of overcoming prejudice by accepting each individual as a significant and important person. In this story Gilly learns to accept and finally to love Maime Trotter, her fat and nearly illiterate foster mother; William Ernest, her slow, shy, fearful foster "brother"; and Mr. Randolph, her blind, black, poetry-loving neighbor. At the same time she learns something even more basic—she learns to respect and love herself. She develops a sense of belonging and learns that family does not have to be made up of blood relatives. And finally she comes to see her phantom-heroine mother Courtney realistically, to give up control, and to put the needs of someone else—her grandmother—before her own.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 1, pages 1-6.

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

The Great Gilly Hopkins - Independent Activities	Skills
1. A Paterson Primer (Researching the author)	R , S
2. Trotter (Imitating the author's style)	W
3. Two Points of View (Writing in the first person)	S , W
4. Clouds of Glory (Inferring character's thoughts)	W
5. Prejudice Overcome (Writing a letter)	W
6. Illustrating Gilly (Illustrating the story)	D , W
The Great Gilly Hopkins - Group Activities	Skills
1. A Sequel (Planning a sequel)	D , W
2. Comparing Realistic Fiction (Constructing a comparative chart)	D , S , W
3. Changed By Relationships (Writing about characters' influence)	S , W
4. Courtney's Girl (Understanding motherly qualities)	S , W
5. A Life Thrown Away? (Predicting the future)	S , W
6. "Lets Talk About...." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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