



Syd Solomon (American, 1917-2004), *Sail Song*, 1971. Acrylic and aerosol enamel on canvas, 48 x 48 in. Bequest of David Morris Cohen, 1999. MF99.7.2

Syd Solomon used long confident brushstrokes to create this painting *Sail Song*. These long sweeping brushstrokes may have been inspired by Syd Solomon's interest in typography, or the style and appearance of printed words. **Can you find any examples of brushstrokes that remind you of the alphabet?**

This painting uses negative space, which is the space around and between the subject of an image, usually seen as a plain background. In this painting, negative space is highlighted as a striking large shape dominating the left side of the canvas. **The large quadrilateral (4-sided shape) is not the only example of negative space in the painting; where else do you see an example of negative space? What examples of positive space can you find?**

POETRY

Syd Solomon not only made paintings, he also wrote poetry inspired by nature. Read this poem while looking at *Sail Song*. Then come up with your own spontaneous poem inspired by this painting.

*that sky
that light
that enormous
discussion of space
that wrap
that cover
shot through with nothing
covers my face*

STANDARDS:
LAFS.5.RL.4.10

ACTIVITY

NATURE POETRY

MATERIALS:
ABSTRACT LANDSCAPE MADE OUTSIDE,
PAPER, AND A PENCIL

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:
MODERATE



The beauty of the natural world inspired Syd Solomon throughout his life. Themes of nature are found in most of his paintings, the poetic titles he gave his paintings, and his poetry. We can also draw inspiration from the natural world when creating art.

DIRECTIONS

1. First make a landscape painting or drawing in an abstract style. Your painting doesn't have to look like real life, instead try to capture the way nature makes you feel. Click [here](#) to find our activity page for creating your own Abstract Landscape Painting.
2. Take a moment to observe the abstract landscape you made. Think about what inspired you to create that particular landscape. How did it feel to be a nature scene while surrounded by nature?
3. Write a short poem inspired by your abstract landscape. You can write this indoors while relying on painting, or write outdoors using both your painting at the nature world as a source of inspiration.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!