NATURE POETRY

In *Sail Song*, Syd Solomon used long confident brushstrokes to create this painting. 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*
Nature Poetry

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.

Materials:

Abstract landscape made at outside

Paper

Pencil

Process:

1. 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?

2. 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.