

# Keep The Lights Burning, Abbie

(GPN #37/PBS #407)

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## Program Description:

This true story is of a young girl who keeps her lighthouse burning during a tremendous storm. LeVar travels to the rocky mid-coast of Maine for a tour of a modern-day lighthouse. He also takes a trip on a 100-foot Maine coastal schooner and joins an authentic sailing family for a day at sea. As a final highlight, we learn about the mystery of putting a ship in a bottle.



## Social Studies Concepts:

- history
- family
- monuments
- geography
- transportation



## Classroom Activities:

### History

Before viewing the video, discuss how a lighthouse warns a ship's captain to steer clear of land or rocks that aren't easily seen at night or during storms. After viewing show the class pictures, photographs, or small models of different kinds of lighthouses [see appendix for suggested Internet sites]. As students study the pictures or models of lighthouses, have them compare and contrast sizes, shapes, and colors--and name common characteristics. Find out where these lighthouses are located and use self-stick notes to mark them on a map.



### Family

Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie is a true story about a girl who keeps the light burning in the lighthouse during a tremendous storm. Have students share a time when their family worked together on a project or during a disaster. For instance picking up branches in the yard after a storm, during a family emergency, helping on a project in the community, or helping out around the house. Suggest that students create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast their experiences to Abbie's time in the lighthouse. What parts of each experience are similar and which are quite different?

## Monuments/Geography

Memorials and monuments help us honor and remember those who have made sacrifices for us. Discuss what a lighthouse memorial would be honoring. Brainstorm a list of monuments and memorials in your area and mark their locations on a map. Provide students individual area maps so they can mark these locations for their families, who may be interested in visiting these historical places.



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## Transportation

Brainstorm the different types of boats (i.e. fishing boat, schooner, sloop, kayak, freighter, tugboat, ferry, yacht, motorboat, houseboat, cruise ship, aircraft carrier, etc). Have partners choose one type of vessel to research. The research should include what the vessel looks like and its use.

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## Do-At-Home Activity:

### Mapping It Out

Send home the “Mapping It Out” activity and encourage families to create a map of their own.

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## Suggested Reading:

### Review Books:

**Very Last First Time** by *Jan Andrews*

**The Little Red Lighthouse And The Great Gray Bridge** by *Hildegard H. Swift and Lynd Ward*

**Sailing With The Wind** by *Thomas Locker*

### Other Suggestions:

**Stay Away From Simon** by *Carol Carrick*

**Brave Irene** by *William Steig*

**The Worry Week** by *Anne Lindbergh*

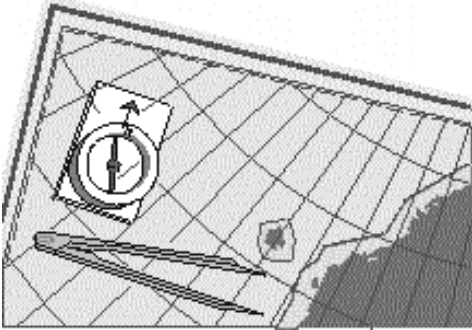
**The Blue-Eyed Daisy** by *Cynthia Rylant*

**To Space And Back** by *Sally Ride with Susan Okie*

**Flossie And The Fox** by *Patricia C. McKissack*

**Who Sank The Boat?** by *Pamela Allen*

# Mapping It Out



We have been using maps in class to locate famous lighthouses and national monuments. Maps are important for locating where we are and where we want to go. Use the space below to make a map with your child, showing how to get from your home to a place your family enjoys visiting.

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for drawing a map. In the bottom right corner of this box, there is a circular compass rose with a cross inside. The letters 'N', 'S', 'E', and 'W' are placed at the top, bottom, right, and left ends of the cross, respectively.