

# Garrett's Gift

Told by  
**Queen Latifah**



## Teaching Guide

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to the *Garrett's Gift* Teaching Guide. The materials in this guide will deepen your students understanding of the DVD as well as allow them to make historical, literary and scientific connections to the production.

You are welcome to utilize or photocopy the materials in this guide to build a unit or use these pages as handouts to pass to your students.

Thank you for purchasing *Garrett's Gift* and we hope you enjoy the show.

### Standards for Learning

The *Garrett's Gift* Teaching Guide supports the following standards:

*Common Core State Standards Initiative:*

IV. Writing

*NYC Department of Education's*

*Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts: Film:*

III. Making Connections \*

*NYC Department of Education's Performance Standards: Science:*

S4. Scientific Connections and Observations \*

*NYS Education Department Social Studies Standards:*

Standard 1. History of the United States and New York \*

\* Special Note to Teachers: If you live outside of New York, we recommend exploring equivalent standards in your state/county. The *Garrett's Gift* teaching guide can be applied to many state English, film, science and social studies standards.

## Plot Synopsis

*Garrett's Gift* tells the story of young Garrett Morgan and how he grew up to be one of the most creative and influential inventors in American history. Narrated by award-winning actress and vocalist, Queen Latifah, *Garrett's Gift* explores the imaginative and active childhood of Garrett Morgan and how his adventurous nature sometimes led him into trouble. These very qualities that sometimes cause problems as child, turned out to be very helpful to Garrett as an adult. His gift, his active and creative mind, allowed him to create inventions, such as the traffic light, that have helped many people all over the world. *Garrett's Gift* teaches us that we are all born with a gift, something that's ours alone, but what is most important is that we give that gift back to the world. *Garrett's Gift* is written by Karyn Parsons, illustrated by, Coretta Scott King award-winner, R. Gregory Christie and is accompanied with original music by Coati Mundi of Kid Creole and the Coconuts.



### Character Descriptions

Garrett – A creative and active little boy whose ideas sometimes get him into trouble

Garrett's Mom – A stern, but caring woman who only wants the best for her son

Garrett's Dad – A hard-working and understanding man that understands the importance of

Garrett's education





## Garrett's Gift Science Activity

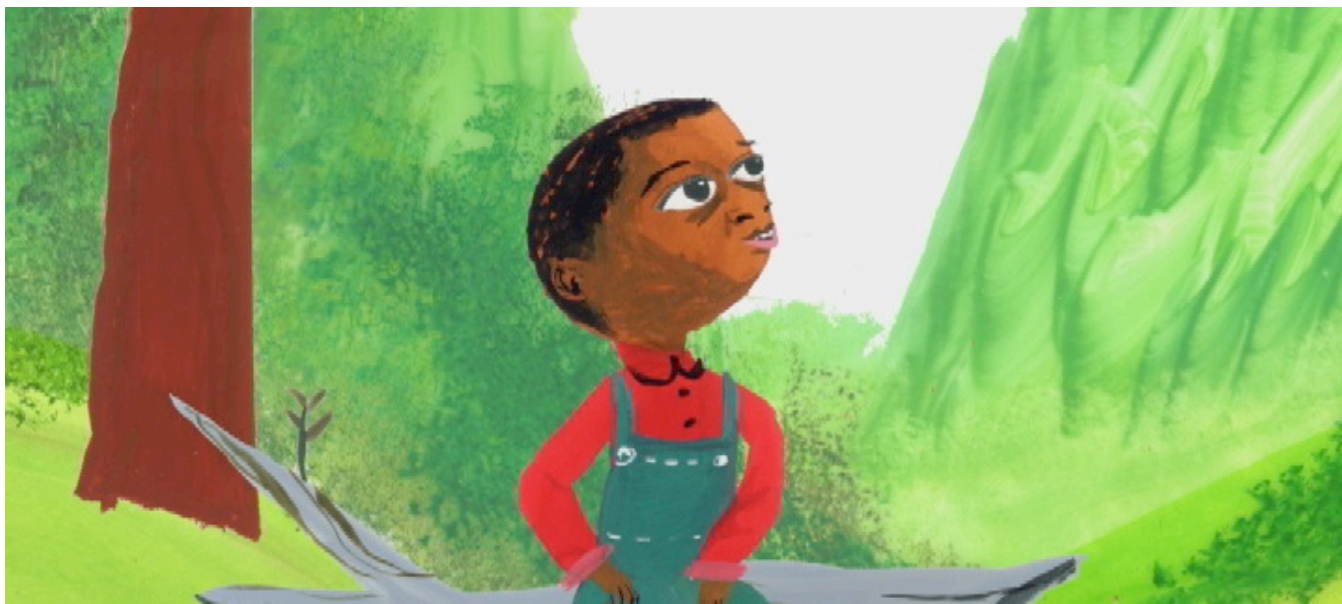
### "Necessity is the Mother of Invention"

Anyone can be an inventor. In the movie, *Garrett's Gift*, Garrett Morgan moves to the city. He learns that traffic and car accidents are a big problem in city. He invents the traffic light to help make the street safer and save lives. In this activity, you can try to invent something new like Garrett Morgan. These activities can be done on your own, with a group, or with the entire class.

Follow the directions below:

1. Make a list of some of the problems you see in your town.
2. Choose one big problem that you feel strongly about
3. Read a book or use the computer to find out more information about the problem
4. Think about an invention that could solve the problem
5. Draw a picture of your invention
6. Write about how your invention works

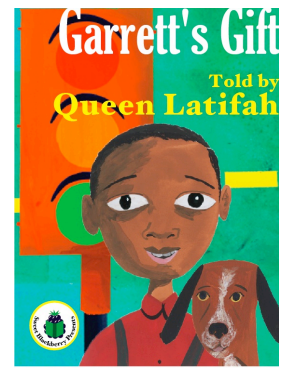
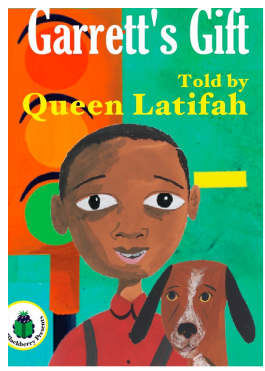
After you have finished creating your invention, you might want to share it with the class, with your friends or with a parent or guardian. Inventors come in all different shapes and sizes and you just might come up with the next invention that could change the world.



## Critical Thinking

1. Young Garrett Morgan was born in on a farm in Paris, Kentucky. What do you think life what like living on a farm?
2. Young Garrett Morgan was born in 1877. That was over one hundred years ago. What do you think it was like to be a kid back then? What did you think is different? What do you think is the same?
3. When Garrett Morgan grows up, he works at many different jobs and does many different things. Why do you think he had so many jobs? What kind of jobs would you like to have when you grow up?





Garrett's Gift English/Language Arts Activity

In the movie, Garrett has to leave home to go to school. He leaves his mom, his dad and his brothers and sisters. Garrett knows that education is important, but it was not easy to leave everything he knew and everything he loved behind. Imagine that you are Garrett Morgan's friend; write him a friendly letter to cheer him up. Or you can imagine that you are a student at Garrett's new school and write him a friendly letter to welcome him to the school. Remember, letters look something like this:

Dear Garrett,

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Love,

Your name



### About *Garrett's Gift*

Sweet Blackberry's *Garrett's Gift* was produced and written by Karyn Parsons. *Garrett's Gift* teaching guide was written by Latisha Jones.

### About Sweet Blackberry

Sweet Blackberry is a non-profit media company founded by Karyn Parsons in order to bring little-known stories of African Americans to children everywhere.