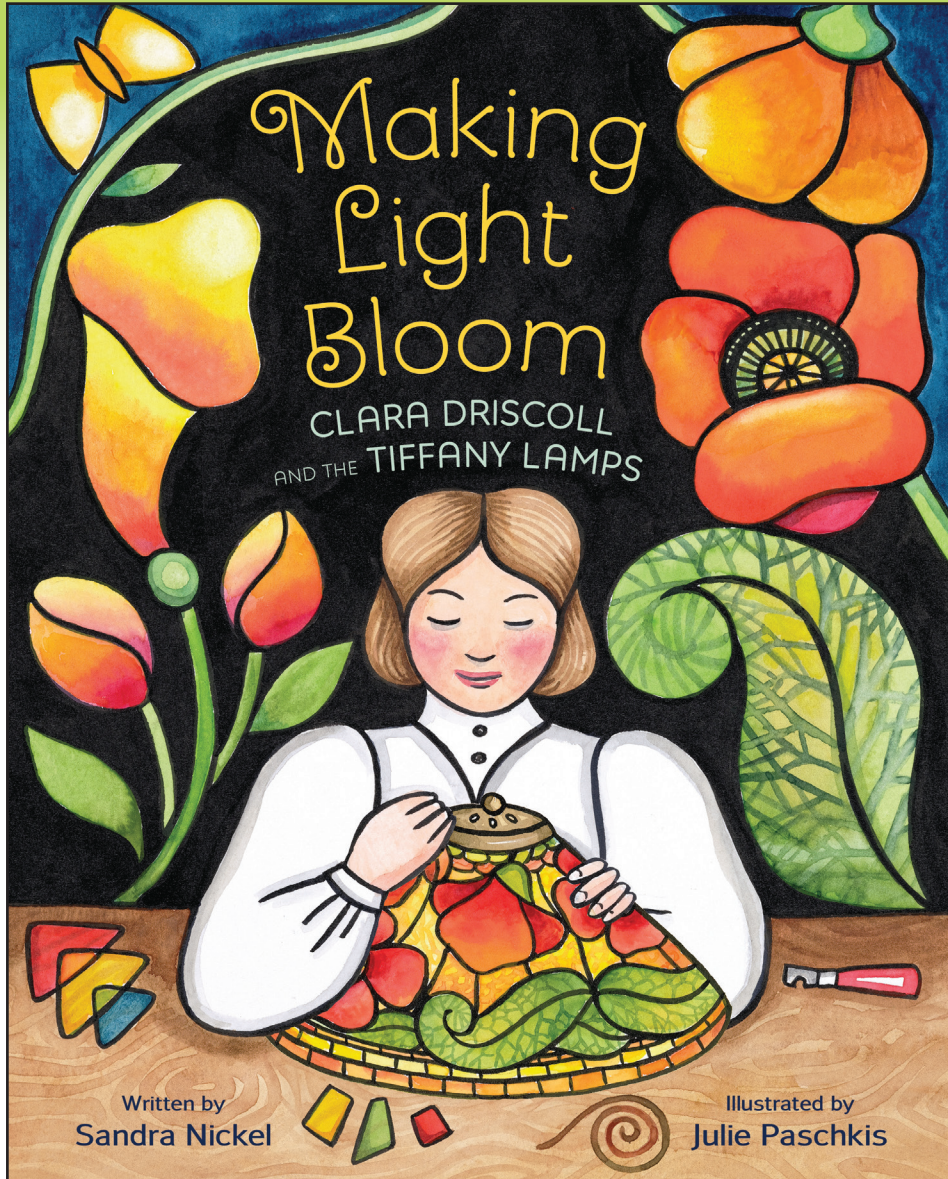




# Classroom Guide

9781682636091



★ “Alongside delicate, design-oriented text by Nickel, Paschkis combines black outlines and luminous colors to make the pages glow like stained-glass itself.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Meet  
Clara Driscoll,  
a nature lover  
with the mind of a  
creative innovator and  
the unsung genius  
who designed and  
engineered the iconic  
Tiffany Lamps.



Drawing inspiration from her childhood gardens, Clara created designs for Louis C. Tiffany’s stained glass windows. Clara had such a flare for glass that Tiffany put her in charge of a special

workroom, staffed with women called the Tiffany Girls. But Clara wanted more. She wanted to create a three-dimensional work that would make light bloom. So she figured out how to engineer a lamp—how to shape and bend glass and light it so that her designs sprung to colorful, vivid life.

Today, we all recognize Tiffany Lamps, but we almost forgot the woman who created them. Extensive back matter in this beautifully illustrated picture book biography features more information about Clara Driscoll, her letters, and her design and manufacturing process.






[srandnickel.com](http://srandnickel.com) [juliepaschkis.com](http://juliepaschkis.com) [peachtreebooks.com](http://peachtreebooks.com)

Interior(s) from *Making Light Bloom: Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Lamps*. Text © 2025 by Sandra Nickel.  
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# Discussion Questions



-  Describe Clara's childhood with her sisters in the house on the hill.
-  Why does Clara move from her life and home in Ohio to New York City?
-  Where does Clara find a job that allows her to use her artistic skills?
-  What does Louis Tiffany do to show Clara that he believes in her talent and leadership?
-  Who are the Tiffany Girls?
-  How does Clara inspire the Tiffany Girls as they work on their glass designs?
-  What gift from her mother and sisters inspires Clara to create a glass lamp?
-  How is Clara's dragonfly lamp recognized at the World's Fair in Paris?
-  How do the male craftsmen at Tiffany Studios react when Clara and the Tiffany Girls are assigned the task of making garden-inspired windows and lamps?
-  How does Louis solve the conflict between the male craftsmen and Clara's team?
-  Clara's creations are called Tiffany Lamps, so for years people assumed that Louis Tiffany designed and made them. How does the world discover the truth about the real designer of the lamps?
-  What messages do you think the author is trying to share with readers through telling the story of Clara Driscoll?

The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

**Making Light Bloom: Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Lamps** CLASSROOM GUIDE

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# Activities for Students



## Mini Tiffany Lamps

Make your own mini Tiffany Lamp with colored tissue paper, liquid starch (found in grocery store laundry aisles), and a glass votive candle holder or mason jar. Design your lamp on a piece of paper. Cut tissue paper into flowers or simple shapes to match your design. With a paint brush, lightly coat sections of your jar with a thin layer of liquid starch. Press your cut pieces of tissue paper onto the starched areas. Working in sections, cover the entire surface of your jar with tissue paper. Experiment with overlapping tissue paper segments to create new colors. Lightly cover the tissue paper with another thin layer of liquid starch. Allow your jar to dry thoroughly. Once dry, insert a battery-operated tea light candle in your jar and watch your design bloom!

## Setting the Scenes

Fold a large piece of drawing paper in half to create two equal parts. Label one side “The House on the Hill” to represent where Clara lived in Ohio. Label the other side “New York City” to describe where Clara moved when she was older. Re-read the parts of the story that describe each setting. Use the information from the story to draw a detailed illustration of each setting.

## Nature Poetry

To inspire the Tiffany Girls, Clara reads poems about nature aloud as they work. Search for poems about nature and select one to memorize. Practice your poem so that you can recite it fluently and with expression. Have a nature poetry celebration where memorized poems are shared with the group.

## I Think . . .

Clara did not receive recognition for creating Tiffany Lamps in her lifetime. What are your thoughts about how others treated Clara’s work and her accomplishments? Write a short opinion essay. Give reasons for your opinions.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONTEXT CLUES

Sandra Nickel uses rich vocabulary to describe the life and art of Clara Driscoll. Look at the underlined word in each text excerpt from the story and use the other words in the excerpt as clues to help you write a definition for the underlined word.

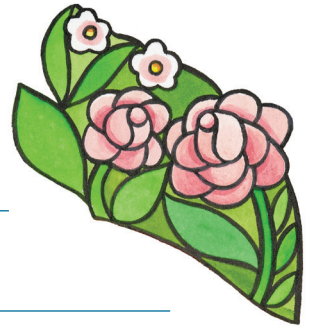


Excerpt from the story	Definition of underlined word
“Back in the workshop, Clara worked <u>meticulously</u> to ensure her designs accurately reflected nature. She examined photographs and living blossoms, even pinning flowers upside down to discover how they fell.”	
“By choosing between glass that was <u>dappled</u> and streaked, shaded and shimmering, Clara was able to ‘paint’ robes, halos, and great wings of angels.”	
“The World’s Fair judges were so <u>astounded</u> by Clara’s lamp they gave it the bronze medal. Louis was so <u>astounded</u> by the bronze medal he gave Clara flowers.”	
“She soon turned to dragonflies and began creating seven pairs of lacy wings. This lamp was <u>intricate</u> , and it took a long time to make.”	
“She also created her most <u>ambitious</u> lamp of all, the delicate wisteria, which would have two thousand glass petals cascading from branches.”	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Dear Clara

Over her lifetime, Clara wrote hundreds of letters to her mother and sisters describing her life in New York City and details about her work creating her iconic Tiffany Lamps. It's because of these letters that we know about Clara's role in developing this unique art form. Write a letter to Clara describing what you've learned about her from reading *Making Light Bloom* and how her story makes you feel.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# How Clara Made Light Bloom

Clara Driscoll's artistic talents helped her create beautiful lamps. The steps that were required to make a Tiffany Lamp from start to finish are detailed in the Author's Note at the end of the book. Read this section of the book and use the information to make a flowchart that has both illustrations and captions that detail the process Clara followed to make each lamp.

