

ARMORY

Armory Center for the Arts

Grade Levels

3rd-5th grade
and beyond*

National Visual Arts Common Core Standards

VA:Cr1.1.3a

Elaborate on an imaginative idea.

VA:Cr1.1.4a

Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem.

VA:Cr1.1.5a

Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making.

VA:Cr2.1.3a

Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process.

VA:Cr2.1.4a

Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers.

VA:Cr2.1.5a

Identify and demonstrate diverse methods of artistic investigation to choose an approach for beginning a work of art.

VA:Cr2.1.3a

Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

*Project is adaptable with varying complexity for ages children to adults.

Virtual Field Trip Tour Lesson Plan

Story Box

Developed by Armory Teaching Artist: Adrienne DeVine

Lesson Goal

Create a story box made from common household materials and art supplies. Pages on the outside of the box can contain pictures for visual stories or text in the form of words or poetry. The box can be filled with found and treasured objects that represent memories, histories, thoughts, and ideas of the maker.

Lesson Objectives

Students will:

- Observe the open chest view of Sapphire that reveals a collection of objects
- Recognize how common items found in the home can be transformed into art
- Respond to and reflect on prompts to conceptualize the content of their art project
- Collect materials that have meaning and purpose to them to use in their project and to help tell their story.

Materials

- **Empty cardboard box:** dimensions HWD = 3" x 4-1/2" x 2-3/4" (Traditional Medicinals or Yogi brand tea box sizes worked well for the models)
- **Additional lightweight cardboard:** such as another tea box, a cereal box, tissue box, or other such packaging). This will be cut into 4 pieces approximately 3" x 2-3/4" each.
- **Cardboard egg carton** (optional for making "brick" tiles)
- **Paper:** 3 sheets of 8-1/2" x 11" (bond, drawing, or construction paper)
- **Scissors**
- **Glue** (liquid or glue stick will work)
- **Ruler or straight edge**
- **Drawing materials:** Pencil, markers, crayons, colored pencils
- **Found materials:** selected personal treasure items, buttons, coins, toys, magazines, photocopies, photos for collage.

Vocabulary

Art: collage, mixed media, stencil, abstract, figurative, representational, found objects, text

Themes: memories, myths, stories, identity, treasure

National Visual Arts Common Core Standards continued...

VA:Cr2.1.4a

Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

VA:Cr2.1.5a

Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

VA:Cr2.3.5a

Identify, describe, and visually document places and/or objects of personal significance.

VA:Re.7.2.3a

Determine messages communicated by an image.

VA:Re.7.2.4a

Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages.

VA:Re.7.2.5a

Identify and analyze cultural associations suggested by visual imagery.

Project Sample



Image

Alison Saar. *Sapphire*, 1985. Wood, shards, electric lights, mixed media. 28 x 31 x 10 in. (71.1 x 78.7 x 25.4 cm). Collection of Gai Gherardi and Rhonda Saboff. Courtesy Armory Center for the Arts.



Warm Up Discussion

Looking at *Sapphire*, think about...

- What memories would be inside your story box?
Related activity: Draw a picture of the objects and materials that represent your memories.
- If you had to pack a suitcase with your most treasured belongings, what would you pack?
Related activity: Tell a story about your box and the importance of the things inside. Draw a picture of it. What treasures does it hold?
- How can you use pictures and/or text to tell your story?
- What kind of text might be on the pages of your story box? A single word? A poem?
- What is your favorite color? How does it make you feel? How does a particular object in your treasure box help you remember an experience?

Additional Resources

- armoryarts.org/saar
- https://louvre.com/artist.cfm?tArtist_id=263

Procedure/Steps

1. First, mark the top and the front opening side of your box.
2. Measure the height of the box and cut two strips of paper. These will be your book pages (for example, the recommended boxes are 3" in height, so cut two 3" x 11" strips of paper)
3. **Make the story pages:** Fold the strip of paper in half. With the fold at the top, fold again bringing each edge of the paper back to the fold, to form a "W" shape. Repeat with the other strip of paper to make two "W"s.
4. **Make the story book covers:** Measure the height and width of the sides of your box and cut 4 pieces of lightweight cardboard. These will be the covers of your book. (for example, the recommended boxes are 3" x 2-3/4", so cut four 3" x 2-3/4" pieces of the lightweight cardboard (i.e., cereal box, tissue box, etc.).
5. Now glue the cardboard to the ends of each paper strip. Set them aside to dry.
6. Optional: Cover the top, the front, and the back of the box with plain paper cut to size (for example, the recommended box front and back is 3" x 4-1/4" including the flap). Adding this cover helps to make sure that your collaged, or glued, elements stick well to the surface.
7. Now you can begin to design the front, back, and top surfaces of your box using your selected materials.
8. When finished with step 7, write a story, a poem, single words, or draw pictures, on the pages of your book.*
9. Finish by gluing the book to the sides of the box. The center fold of the book should be facing towards the back of the box.
10. Put the items that you have collected inside your box. Do they also tell a story?

Closure

- Share your artwork with a friend!
- Explain why your box is meaningful to you.



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