

Story Quilts/Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
3rd Grade
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Core Subject Area: ELA

Art Form: Visual Art

MS-CCR Standards in ELA:

RL3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text

RL3.3 Describe characters in a story and explain how actions contributed to the sequence of events.

RL3.4 Determine meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

RL3.6 Distinguish between their own point of view from that of the narrator or characters.

W.3.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences.

SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant details.

L. 3.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing or speaking.

L. 3.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

MS-CCR Standards in Visual Art:

VA:Cr1.1.3a Elaborate on an imaginative idea.

b Apply knowledge of available resources, tools and technologies to investigate personal ideas through artmaking.

VA:Cr2.2.3a Create a personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

VA:Cr2.2.3a Demonstrate an understanding of safe and proficient use of materials/tools/equipment.

VA:Re7.2.3a Determine messages communicated by an image. (Visual Imagery)

VA:Cn10.1.3 Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experience to make art.

VA:Cn11.1.3 Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Duration: 60-90 minutes OR two 30-45 minute sessions

Objectives:

Using the image of Tar Beach, students will learn how artwork can tell a story. (Visual Imagery)

After reading Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold, students will be able to identify the story elements.

The students will study the work of the artist and author, Faith Ringgold, then create a story quilt of their own.

The student will orally share their story with a partner then write a narrative about the story quilt created.

Materials Needed:

Image of artwork: Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (Image below in resources)

Book: Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (Youtube video in lesson sequence)

9 x 11 paper or larger - Student can draw a square in center for "story"

3 x 3 squares in assorted colors of scrapbook paper or fabric

Markers

Glue sticks or glue

Yarn or ribbon strips

Vocabulary:

Quilt	Character	Imagination	Pattern
Storytelling	Setting	Mixed Media	Shapes
Pattern	Point of view	Visual Literacy	

Lesson Sequence:

1. The teacher will share background on artist and author Faith Ringgold (in resources below). The teacher will display the artwork/image of Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (in resources below). Quilting will be discussed as an artform and how quilts can tell stories as well as materials used in quiltmaking. The students will make predictions about the book Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold from the image.
2. The teacher will read aloud Tar Beach (AR 3.4) by Faith Ringgold OR students can view the Youtube of Faith Ringgold reading Tar Beach.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9RKJleFdBu>
3. After reading the story the teacher will lead a discussion of the story setting, main characters and point of view in the book and artwork Tar Beach. Questions are in the resources section below.
4. The teacher will show the video (listed below in resources) of Faith Ringgold discussing how she created the story quilt, Tar Beach. The teacher will explain that

students will be creating a mixed media creation inspired by the work of Faith Ringgold. Students can use a variety of materials to create their story.

5. Have students draw with markers a scene in the center of the paper showing a special place or a special activity that they do with their family.
6. Students can then glue fabric or paper squares around the edge as a “quilt” border. Pattern (of placement of squares) can be discussed as quilters often use a pattern in their quilting.
7. Encourage students to continue to work and add items(yarn/ribbon) to embellish their story quilt.
8. Students will display the finished work and discuss it with a partner.
9. Students will write a narrative about the story quilt that they have created.

Faith Ringgold discussing how she created Tar Beach:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/craft-in-america-faith-ringgold-creating-tar-beach-story-quilt/>

Artist Background/Questions for Tar Beach Art Discussion:

<https://11afyp2d1guh2o6cn33r70tr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Tar-Beach-Faith-Ringgold-Lesson-1.14.15.pdf>

Faith Ringgold website:

<https://www.mattmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3-Lesson-Plan-Faith-Ringgold-and-Story-Quilts.pdf>

Extended Lesson Plans Suggestions:

- Students can research the location of the bridge then create a mural of the George Washington Bridge.
- Students can study architecture then design the New York skyline.
- A class quilt can be created using fabric scraps with pictures drawn with fabric markers then sewn together to make a quilt.

Lesson Plan Sources:

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/arthistory/faith-ringgolds-story-quilts/>

<https://11afyp2d1guh2o6cn33r70tr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Tar-Beach-Faith-Ringgold-Lesson-1.14.15.pdf>

<https://www.mattmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3-Lesson-Plan-Faith-Ringgold-and-Story-Quilts.pdf>

Tar Beach, Faith Ringgold 1988



Sample Student Work:

