

Lost and Found

Lesson Overview:

Students will be introduced to a method of reading portraiture that involves objects. This will provide the foundation for the sculpture activity. Students will create an abstract self-portrait sculpture out of found objects.

Length of Lesson: Two class periods

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will be better able to:

- ✓ Interpret objects as symbols of their lives
- ✓ Use critical thinking skills

Key Words:

Sculpture: The art or practice of shaping figures or designs in the round or in relief, as by chiseling marble, modeling clay, or casting in metal. To fashion (stone, bronze, or wood, for example) into a three-dimensional figure.

Supplies:

- Found objects (students should go on a collection walk at home and may bring in disposable objects as well)
- String
- Glue
- Scissors

Instructional Plan:

Warm-Up:

Learning to Look: “Object Race”

Choose portraits in the Gallery’s collection or in the Portrait Competition section of the website based on your curriculum study.

- Using a portrait rich in symbols, create a list for the students of approximately fifteen items found in the portrait.
- Instructions to group: *Be the first to find all the objects listed on your object race card. You will have thirty seconds. Start.* (Use the following format for object race lists: *Find the: _____, _____, and _____.*)
- Facilitate a discussion about the symbolic meaning of the objects.

Activity Discussion:

Write the following phrase on the blackboard and ask each student to fill in the blanks on a piece of paper:

Abstraction Activity: *If I were a _____, I would be a _____ because*

_____.

(Example: *If I were a piece of furniture, I would be a lamp because I like to light up people’s lives.*)

Then lead a discussion as to why the students said what they said. What do their descriptions say about them?

Activity Instructions:

- Have students create abstract self-portrait sculptures with found objects.
- Give examples of found objects students can use in their sculptures. Students will have brought in objects from home.
- The found objects should have relevance to the artist. What does each object say about each student-artist?
- Have students present the sculptures to their classmates.

Extension:

Create a display of the sculptures with explanatory labels for each of the pieces.

Wrap-up:

Students will discuss what they have learned from this lesson.

Assessment:

Work should be assessed on the following criteria:

- Participation in class discussions
- Creation of an abstract portrait sculpture