

Lesson Plan

Rationale:

Critical consciousness is the critical thinking process individual apply to examine their current situations to develop a deeper understanding of concrete realities and then create, implement, and evaluate solutions to problems. This lesson plan uses pictures books to engage young students to examine areas where differences might be present—the teacher first models thinking aloud using the picture book *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold and examining other work by the same artist. Students learn about the artist’s history to examine how current events influences art and literature. The lesson will be explored through an arts integration lens.

Standards:

Social / Emotional Standards (CASEL)

1. Self-Awareness
 - a. Identifying personal, cultural, and linguistic assets
 - b. Identifying one’s feelings
 - c. Examining prejudices and bias
2. Social Awareness
 - a. Taking others’ perspectives
 - b. Showing concern for the feelings of others
 - c. Identifying diverse social norms, including unjust ones
 - d. Understanding the influences of organizations/systems on behavior
3. Responsible Decision-Making
 - a. Demonstrating curiosity and open-mindedness
 - b. Anticipating and evaluating the consequences of one’s actions

Common Core English Language Arts Standards in Reading

1. Key Ideas and Details
 - a. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
 - b. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
 - c. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
2. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
 - a. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Learning Goals:

- Understanding: The student will understand that...
 - culture is a way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs.
- Knowledge: The student will know...
 - artwork can represent feelings, thoughts, and history
 - Faith Ringgold is an artist who uses her art to advocate for social change.
 - culture can be represented through art.
 - culture is the customs, art, and social actions of a group of people.
- Skill: The student will be able to...
 - create a quilt square representing their culture

- discuss the artwork of Faith Ringgold
- identify how Faith Ringgold's artwork represents diversity

Lesson Introduction:

Read the book Tar Beach or watch the author read the book from her studio in this YouTube clip: <https://youtu.be/h9RKJleFdBu> Inform students they will be making their own class story quilt with a variety of art materials. The quilt will display the diversity and community in your classroom.

Lesson Engagement:

As you read, or after the video, engage the students in a discussion of Faith Ringgold's artwork. Faith Ringgold is a social activist, and her artwork reflects drive to create a more equitable society. Ask students to reflect how the artwork reflects Ringgold's goals. Utilize the resources below or find others to show students how Faith Ringgold utilizes art to advocate for social change. Continue to engage students in discussion about how art can share feelings, thoughts, and reflect the time period.

Allow students to create their own quilt piece using a regular sheet of paper. Provide students with a variety of art supplies including drawing materials, pieces of fabric, tissue paper, ribbon, paint, etc. Instruct students to create a quilt piece representing themselves but allow freedom in their creation. You may also have students include a sentence describing their art piece. If desired, instruct students to create a border similar to *Tar Beach*. Resources 5 and 6 below include instructions on completing an art project.

When students complete their quilt piece, assemble a full quilt, and display your class community quilt for others to see.

Resources

1. Faith Ringgold's website is organized by decade and includes her artwork and books. Also includes her biography. <https://www.faithringgold.com/>
2. Artist Faith Ringgold shares about the process of writing *Tar Beach* and the art behind her work. PBS episode from Craft in America (14:11) October 30, 2014 <https://youtu.be/cU9MpcHfwiA>
3. A look at the activist, Faith Ringgold, and her work as an artist. Her work is displayed through story quilts. Clip from CBS Sunday Morning (5:41) July 11, 2021 <https://youtu.be/IZ-VvOep2D8>
4. Faith Ringgold shares her perspective of her artwork "Die" as part of The Museum of Modern Art's Virtual Views series. (1:51) June 19, 2020 <https://youtu.be/-4Stf0ELfDU>
5. Learn about Faith Ringgold's quilt and the book *Seven Passages to Flight* in this video from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. The art educator also shares about making a section of a story quilt. (3:14) August 21, 2020 <https://youtu.be/ds5K3Y5sd50>
6. A drawing video, including the PBS reading by Faith Ringgold, walking students through an art lesson. (17:07) Feb. 1, 2021 <https://youtu.be/9RpitKycSkE>

Differentiation:

Allow students access to additional books (see table) and artwork (resource 1) by Faith Ringgold. Also provide links to audio recordings of the books. Students should also have choice and freedom when creating their quilt pieces.

Closure

Allow students a chance to talk about their quilt pieces. This can be done in pairs or small groups.

Criteria for Assessment

Display the quilt for others to view. This demonstrates a classroom community. Assessment will be completed through informal observation and discussion.

Books by Faith Ringgold

Title	Audio Link
<i>Tar Beach</i>	https://youtu.be/h9RKJleFdBU
<i>Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky</i>	https://youtu.be/KZlffp8DQy8
<i>Dinner at Aunt Connie's House</i>	https://youtu.be/A3qGCVXe1u8
<i>Bonjour, Lonnie</i>	https://youtu.be/xZ66NrTCaQc
<i>My Dream of Martin Luther King</i>	https://youtu.be/4WVzSw0fYI
<i>My Invisible Princess</i>	https://youtu.be/L9b4qNd-ke4
<i>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Park</i>	https://youtu.be/A3qGCVXe1u8
<i>We Came to America</i>	https://youtu.be/acLrnH91fik