

“My Art Tells a Story”



Objective: Create artwork that tells a personal story.

Materials

- TAB centers that students are familiar with, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and collage.

Motivation

- Ask students to share their favorite stories.
- Tell students that art can tell stories too. Show a story quilt by Faith Ringgold, like one from her book *Tar Beach*, and discuss the story it tells.
- Discuss how Ringgold used special memories as the subject of her artwork. Have volunteers share their own memories that could be used to make artwork. Ask if there are other types of stories that artwork can tell.

Step 1: Find an Idea

Lead students through a “think, pair, share” activity to develop ideas for their artwork. Have them think independently about what story they could tell through their artwork. Next, have them “pair” with a partner who sits near them and take turns sharing ideas.

Step 2: Create Artwork

As students work in centers, some will work on creating the ideas they’ve just developed while other students will pursue other concepts or continue with work already in progress. As students work, ask if their work tells a story and have them share it with you.

Step 3: Reflect

Leave a few minutes at the end of class for volunteers to share their artwork and the story it tells. Have the students who share select one volunteer to give them positive feedback about their artwork.

Tip: Feedback is a great way to include art conversation in your classroom. To teach using feedback statements, ask students to share what they like about the artwork and explain why. Model using feedback when you talk to students about their work or share art with the class. It can really infuse your classroom with productive conversation!