

Lesson 32: Artists

"I don't think about art when I'm working. I try to think about life."
—Jean-Michel Basquiat

Social Justice Standard: Identity 5

Summary

Art has continued to inspire and evolve over centuries. It can take on many forms and be interpreted in so many different ways. Like so many other mediums, the world of art has historically centered around the white experience and perspective. Art is a universal form of expression in all corners of the world, and especially now with the internet, we are fortunate enough to be able to experience different forms of art created by an almost limitless number of artists. It is exciting to broaden our view and understanding of what art is and why it is made. The books in this lesson allow us a window into experiences that have inspired many artists, and hopefully they will also inspire you.

Booklist

- *It Jes' Happened* by Don Tate, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
- *Gordon Parks: Segregation Story* by Gordon Parks
- *How to Draw What You See* by Rudy De Reyna
- *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Consider This

- Do you like art? What kind?
- What art did you study in school? What was their significance and story?
- Has there been any art that has left an impression on you? What about it do you remember the most?
- Do you have any art in your home? How is this art a reflection of you and/or your family?

Talk Together

- Many artists are influenced by their life experiences. When you make art, is it usually inspired by your imagination or your real life?
- If you drew a picture of how you feel right now, what would it include?

Engage

- Using a camera or a phone, take a picture of something that makes you happy or represents something that makes you happy. Then take a picture of something that makes you feel frustrated, and finally, take one of something that feels unfair.

Explore More

- Artist Network
- Art Hub for Kids