

Storyteller Dolls



Story Telling & Visual Art

Grade
K - 5

Common Core Standard(s) Grade K - 5
W3 CCR

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

Visual Art (MD) Standard(s) Grade K - 5

2.0 Historical, Cultural, and Social Context- Students will demonstrate an understanding of visual arts as a basic aspect of history and human experience.
2.1 Determine ways in which works of art express ideas about oneself, other people, places, and events.



CONNECTED OBJECTIVES

Students will select and use works of art as inspiration to express ideas visually and verbally about people, places and events. Students will discuss the "Grandfather Storyteller" sculpture and describe how the artist used her history to tell a story through art.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- Photos of storyteller dolls
"Grandfather Storyteller"
by Helen Cordero
- Crayons, color pencils
- Story booklets

KEY CONTENT VOCABULARY

history
story
Pueblo

KEY ARTS VOCABULARY

sculpture

A S S E S S M E N T

Student created rubric:
Is my doll larger than the listeners?
Are the eyes closed and mouth open?
Are the listeners appropriate for the storyteller?



L E S S O N S T E P S

Discussion Questions 10 – 15 minutes

1. Describe what you see in the sculpture. Who is the big person? Who are the children?
2. Why is the storyteller's mouth open?
3. Why is the storyteller's eyes closed?
4. Why are some listeners covering their ears or about to close their eyes? (maybe they are scared or excited about the story)
5. Why is it important to tell stories?
6. Why do you think Helen, the artist, made this storyteller after her grandfather?

Background Information 5 – 10 minutes

Storytelling was a regular event in the Pueblo Culture. The artist, Helen Cordero was the artist who began the tradition of the storyteller doll. Storyteller doll sculptures represent the sharing of tradition and culture across generations. The storyteller pottery could be seen in forms of animals, birds, and in the images of mothers and grandfathers telling stories or singing to children. The Native American storyteller is an individual that shares stories of Native American heritage through tales passed down from ancestors. The rich cultural and religious heritage of the generations that preceded our society helps to develop an understanding of how the past as influenced the present. It also reinforces the importance of understanding one's own family history.

Procedure:

- Provide additional examples. Discuss the colors, techniques and styles of the artwork.
- Have students use pencil, colored pencils, and/or crayons to draw their own storyteller doll with listeners. Their storyteller doll could be a person they know or who has passed away, or it could be an animal.
- Instruct them to draw their storyteller large, and their listeners small. If they do a human storyteller the listeners would be children. If they create a bird storyteller doll the listeners would be baby birds.... and so forth.
- Use simple designs and colors, like the Pueblo people did, to color their drawings.

EXTENSIONS & OPTIONS

- Early finishers can begin writing the story their storyteller doll is telling.
- Have students make a small paper booklet and in it, write their storyteller's story down. Encourage students to illustrate their books as well.
- Students can create their own sculptures with clay (see Arts Edge Lesson).

SOURCES & RESOURCES

- *Helen Cordero And The Storytellers Of The Cochiti Pueblo* by Nancy Howard
- *ArtsEdge* Clay Story Teller Lesson: http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons/grade-3-4/Listening_Doll.aspx#Instruction

G E T S M A R T T H R O U G H T H E A R T S

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