

Title:

Trickster Paper Sculpture

Grade Level:

9-12 Art Students

Theme:

Using paper as a three-dimensional media to engage oral and visual learners in the cultural concept of Lakota oral tradition.

Duration:

2-3 week time frame

Goal:

Students will listen to the story Iktomi and the Fish as inspiration to illustrate the Iktomi character in a three-dimensional format.

Students will practice listening for descriptive visual details in order to list ones they may want to depict

Students will experiment with materials and methods to produce a physical artwork.

Objectives:

Students will be able to fine-tune their listening skills to inspire visual communication vs. written communication.

Students will be able to identify some physical and personality traits to depict the character in action

Students will be able to use paper as a three-dimensional construction material.

Students will be able to refine their technical and decision-making skills to creatively solve an artistic problem. (How do I transfer what I hear into something the audience can see?)

Cultural concepts:

Artists throughout history have used such stories as inspiration to create artworks in the traditional styles of their host culture as well as for creating artworks in contemporary styles using contemporary materials.

Cultural background:

The oral tradition of Lakota Trickster stories was used to teach life lessons. Because information was exchanged in this manner, listening skills were a vital aspect of development in behavior as well as imagination. Storytellers engaged their audience and inspire to further enhance the meaning and importance of those stories.

Student Activities:

Listen to the CD of author reading the story (multiple times)

Discuss and list descriptive characteristics that may be shown

Refine the idea for a sculpture by sketching  
Observe examples made by teacher, other students and Lakota artists  
Get feedback from classmates and instructor to further refine the idea  
Collect materials to construct the project  
Use the teacher demonstrated paper sculpture techniques and materials to build the sculpture  
Display the sculptures in school showcases  
Materials:  
Sketching paper and pencils for planning  
White glue  
Scissors  
Rulers  
Assorted medium and heavy weight papers for sculpture construction, (scrap papers may be used)  
Cardboard or railroad board for a base  
Colored pens, pencils or markers to draw details

Resources:

Iktomi and the Fish as told by Joseph M. Marshall III in “How Not to Catch Fish and other Adventures of Iktomi”  
Teacher, student or other artist examples  
Prior student knowledge regarding oral tradition, Iktomi stories, etc.

Assessments:

Student lists and notes of physical and personality descriptions gleaned through listening to the story, listening to each other.  
Preliminary sketches to plan the sculpture  
Participation and effort  
The completed sculpture

References:

Marshall, Joseph M. III, (2005) “How Not to Catch Fish and other Adventures of Iktomi,” Eureka Springs, Arkansas: Circle Studios.

Developer:

Rosemary Buchmann, 605-685-6330  
Art and Spanish Instructor  
Bennett County High School  
Martin, SD

Date:

16 June 2011