LESSON/ACTIVITY: Printmaking with Styrofoam Plates creating color, mood and perspective

by Jenifer Duncan

LEVEL: 3rd-5th

SUGGESTED TIME: 2 – 45 min. periods

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will:
1. use color to express mood.
2. create an original artwork using perspective
3. make two prints that express two different moods

MATERIALS/TOOLS:

paper
markers
pencils
foam plates

PREPARATION:

After reading Grandfather Gandhi, class discusses how color affects the mood of an artwork. Students watch Color in Art: color and mood. Teacher example should be prepared.

PROCEDURE:

Draw 4” x 6” simple landscape. Tape final drawing to table, position printing plate under drawing and trace drawing onto foam plate. Students should go over their foam drawing with a pencil to deepen lines but not so deep that they cut through foam. TO MAKE PRINT: Tape foam plate to table, position clean paper on top and make a tape hinge (two pieces of tape at the top of paper. EMPHASIZE: taping down plate and making the hinge on the paper for proper registry. Raise up the paper and color the foam printing plate with marker, one color at a time. Lower paper and rub area that has been inked. NOTE: to get proper color intensity, color may have to be applied several times and rubbed in. For large areas, like the sky, do it in small portions so that the ink does not dry.
Make two prints, one that expresses positive emotion and another print that expresses the opposite sentiment. Both prints can be on the same paper or two different papers. Mount on background.

Day 1:
Read and discuss the emotions that Arun felt in the book, Grandfather Gandhi, and how we can turn a negative experience into positive action. Watch Color in Art: color and mood.
Show teacher example and demonstrate printing method: We discuss perspective, mood and color, horizon lines, and vanishing points.
Pass out 4”x 6” templates. Students draw around templates and draw a simple landscape demonstrating perspective.

Day 2:
Review day 1 lessons and expectations.
When students have done final landscape sketch give them foam printing plate to transfer their drawing onto the foam plate. Use markers to make print.

Day 3:
Review expectations
Make second print using different colors.

VOCABULARY:
Mood
Ashram
Mahatma Gandhi
Arun Gandhi
Horizon line
Vanishing point
Register
Printmaking perspective

RESOURCES:
Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus. Color in Art: color and mood.

POINTERs/ PITFALLS:
Work quickly with markers to color different areas of the printing plate. Paper may be laid on top of the foam printing plate. Use gentle hand pressure and be sure not to move the paper once it is put onto the inked plate.
Students may make “mini” printing plates (2” x 3”) with texture designs drawn into them. They can trade with each other to create textured backgrounds for cut-out silhouettes.

Check for understanding or for critique:

Criteria
- Following directions
- Two prints expressing two different moods and perspective
- Colored completely
- Neatness
- Color stays in lines, drawn neatly, print is registered appropriately
- Art Knowledge
  - Mahatma Gandhi is remembered for peaceful protests and change through non-violence
  - Arun Gandhi is his grandson
  - Color can be used to express emotion
  - Lines converging to a vanishing point create depth in a work of art
- Creativity
- Uses an original idea

VARIATIONS: