Storybook Activity

Subject Area: English Language Arts, Visual Arts
Grade Level: Middle School
Topics/Themes: Character traits, mixed media, literary analysis
Duration: 2 hours

Overview

Much like painters create portraits that offer details about their sitters, book illustrators share details about book characters in their drawings. Over her career, artist Marie Laurencin illustrated several books in her unique style. In this lesson, students will create book cover illustrations in their own styles. Students will also demonstrate close attention to detail and understanding of literary characters.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate art-making skills through selection of materials, methods, and approaches in cover design.
- Cite textual evidence to support character analysis.
• Create a work of art based on character description from the text.

Materials
• Paper (white drawing paper, colorful construction paper)
• Books (selected by students)
• Markers
• Crayons
• Paint (acrylic, watercolor)
• Paintbrushes
• Rulers
• Pencils

Discussion Questions
• What is your favorite book?
• What about this book made you choose it?
• Who are some notable characters in your book?
• Who would you choose as your favorite character from the book?
• How does the author describe your favorite character? (personality, appearance)

Learning Activities
1. Guide students through a breakdown of the project.
   a. Share your favorite book and why it is your favorite.
   b. Share your favorite character.
   c. Share three details about your favorite character.
   d. Share selected parts of the book where the author describes the character in detail.
   e. Show the book cover drawn of the favorite character.
   f. Highlight the details added supported by the author.
2. Prompt students with discussion questions to create their own breakdown for their selected book.
Performance Task

1. Write down book selected and author.
2. Write down character selected.
3. Write three descriptive details about the character.
4. Cite three pieces of evidence that support the character description.
5. Draw a book cover featuring the character and include details from the description.
   a. Combine materials to make a multimedia book cover.
6. Type or write character description and supportive citations.
7. Present project.

Related Objects


Common Core Standards

(ELA) CC.1.2.7.B - Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences, conclusions, and/or generalizations drawn from the text.

(Visual Arts) VA:Cr2.1.7a - Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.