Tell Me What You Remember
Social Studies Lesson Plan for Grades 5–8

Overview
Lesson will take approximately 90 minutes–2 hours.

After talking to people about their memories, artist Lebohang Kganye incorporates these testimonies with archival elements and photographs to consider how the stories our elders tell us shape family narratives and personal identity. In this lesson, students will pair with another student to explore storytelling by using personal objects as vehicles of self-expression. Students will gain knowledge of the role that testimony plays as an expression of self-identity.

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Understand how artists document what they see as they try to make sense of the world around them.
• Become their own storytellers by using meaningful objects to demonstrate aspects of their personal stories.
• Create shared experiences that will enable them to share their unique perspectives. Recognize and value different interpretations and perspectives through the understanding of individual testimony.

Vocabulary
• Testimony: a formal written or spoken statement
• Storyteller: a person who tells stories.
• Perspective: a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view.

Materials
• Meaningful personal object
• Pencil
• Idea Web Worksheet

Procedure
1. Ask students to bring to school an object that has personal meaning.
2. Have students sketch their objects on the back of the Idea Web Worksheet (provided below).
3. Have students complete the four top prompts in each box.
4. Place students in pairs.
5. Have each student share their sketch with their partner and describe their personal connection to the object.

6. Have students complete the four bottom prompts on the worksheet individually.

7. Lead a discussion with students about their testimonials and sketches.
   - Did you learn anything new or surprising about your partner from the testimonial and sketch they provided?
   - Did you find an opportunity to share something new or surprising about yourself through your testimonial and sketch?
   - Did you want to learn more about the object or its connection to your partner?
   - Did you and/or your partner find anything in common through the connection of your testimonies?
   - Do you have a new perspective on the role of objects in personal testimony?
   - Can the same object mean different things to different people?
   - Ask students post-activity reflection questions below.

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**Post Activity Questions**

- If given the opportunity to do this activity again, would you choose the same object? Why or why not?
- Has your partner’s testimony changed your perspective on your object? If so, how?
- What would the testimonies be like if the objects did not have personal meaning?
### Idea Web Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is your object?</th>
<th>Three words to describe your object:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you think your partner’s object is?</td>
<td>Three words to describe your partner’s object:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where was your object found?</th>
<th>Significance of your object:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where do you think your partner’s object may have been found?</td>
<td>What do you think the significance of your partner’s object is?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>