

LESSON PLAN: ABSTRACT ART

Date:	Class:	Unit:
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LESSON TOPIC:	Creating abstract art with <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i>
AIM:	In the novel <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> , the artist Bob created art featuring both realistic and abstract elements. His pieces often featured items from the woods – the trees, raccoons, squirrels, and more. Sometimes, however, art is entirely abstract and conveys a mood or feeling rather than depicting something from life. Students will learn about abstract art and create a piece of abstract art portraying the emotions evoked by a scene from <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> .
OBJECTIVES:	Students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define “abstract art.” 2. Describe how shapes, color and other elements are used in abstract art. 3. Create their own abstract art piece.
GET STARTED/ DO-NOW:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the difference between realistic and abstract art. Reference article: “Explaining Abstract Art to Children”: https://timesbulletin.com/Content/News/News/Article/Explaining-abstract-art-to-children/2/4/149456 2. Provide students with a copy of the article about abstract art from the Tate museum website: https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-art 3. After they read the article, ask the students to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is a definition of abstract art? b) Who are some of the artists known for their abstract artworks? c) What are some of the elements that abstract artists used to create their artwork? d) Of the artworks included in the article, which one is your favorite? Why?
MINI-LESSON:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how abstract artists use shapes, colors and other elements to create artwork that reflects or evokes a particular emotion.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Show several examples of abstract art. As a class, discuss how each piece makes the students feel.
MAIN ACTIVITY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask the students to choose a scene from the book <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i>. Encourage them to choose a scene that resonated with the student and that conveys some type of emotion such as excitement, sadness, hope, fear, joy, etc. 2. Next, provide each student with a few pieces of blank paper. Instruct the students to think about the scene that they chose. Ask the students to create their own abstract art inspired by that scene, using composition, scale, texture, shapes, lines, and colors to convey the scene and/or the mood of the scene in an abstract way. Encourage them to experiment with ideas. 3. When students are ready to create their final piece, provide each student with a heavy piece of paper or posterboard and drawing/painting supplies.
CLOSING ACTIVITY:	Each student presents his or her piece to the class, explaining the scene they chose and how their artwork conveys the emotion that the scene evokes.
EXTENSIONS:	<p>Ask the students to create an abstract portrait of one of the characters in <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i>.</p> <p>Ask the students to research a famous abstract artist and write a one-page essay about the artist.</p>
CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING:	Students present their work to the class and explain what emotion they are trying to convey and how they selected elements of the piece to convey the emotion.
MATERIALS:	

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	<p><i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> (Random House Children’s Books) by Jo Watson Hackl</p> <p>Article about Abstract Art by the Tate museum</p> <p>Blank paper</p> <p>White cardstock</p> <p>Materials for creating art, such as crayons, pens, markers, watercolor paint, acrylic paints, oil paints, charcoals, pastels, colored pencils, sharpies, etc.</p> <p>Rulers</p> <p>Objects or templates to create circles/ovals and other shapes</p>	
TECHNOLOGY:	<p>Websites for discussions:</p> <p>https://timesbulletin.com/Content/News/News/Article/Explaining-abstract-art-to-children/2/4/149456</p> <p>https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-art</p>	
NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work • Organize and develop artistic ideas and work • Refine and complete artistic work • Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation • Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work • Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art 	