

Alice Momm Lesson Plan

Lower School Lesson

Lesson Title: Everything Has a Name

Activity: Students will create an illustrated booklet that tells the story of natural objects as if they were alive

Grade level: 3-5

Time: 2-3x45 min. periods

Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, each student will create an illustrated booklet, which tells the story of a personified natural object. The booklet will include a drawing of the object on the cover as well as additional drawings inspired by the text inside.

Materials: For each student:

A small booklet made by folding 2-3 sheets of 9x12 drawing paper

Drawing materials (cray-pas, graphite bars, pencils etc.)

Scrap paper

Found objects

For the entire class

Stapler and staples to hold booklets together

Vocabulary: Personification, Anthropomorphism, Zoomorphism, (Imagination, for younger students) Found Object

Inspiration: Humans have a tendency to see things that remind them of faces, people or other living creatures. Someone sold a Cheeto that looked like the gorilla Harambe. Some people collect potato chips that look like animals or famous people and books have been created to show how food can look like animals. This part of human nature is called Personification, Anthropomorphism and/or Zoomorphism. (For younger students: This part of human nature is called imagination).

To create her exhibition A Conversation With Trees, Alice Momm spent time walking, carefully observing and collecting unusual natural objects, or object that inspired her. Then she pieced together natural elements to seem like humans (personification or anthropomorphism) or animals (zoomorphism). (For younger children: Then she used her imagination to pieced together natural elements to seem like humans or animals).

For this project, each of you will be given some natural objects. Choose one object and make a drawing of it on the cover of your booklet, adding other elements like eyes, legs, arms, hair, scales, fins, a tail, wings or any other human or animal elements to create a brand new creature. Then you will need to give your creature a name. Once you know the name of your creature, you will write the story of your creature inside the booklet. You can add more drawings to help tell the story.

Note: Teacher can provide found object: Unusual fruits and vegetables (Dragon fruit, Brussels Sprouts on the stalk etc.), or fragments of sea shells, or various dried seedpods, sticks, twigs, dried leaves... anything that might provoke students' imaginations, or, teacher can go for a walk with students (in nature, or around the playground) and have students collect oddities that they discover.

Procedure/Activity:

Period 1

- Review Images of Cheeto Harambe, Sleeping Bird Potato Chip and Snail Tangerine
- Review images Alice Momm exhibition
 - Discussion Questions
 - What is a found object?
 - What are some objects Alice Momm included in her artwork?
 - What kinds of creatures did she create?
 - What about her sculptures makes the natural elements seem alive (anthropomorphism or zoomorphism)
- Brainstorming:
 - Teacher introduces class to one simple natural object.
 - Students brainstorm: What could this object be? What other elements could get added to it? If it was a creature, where might it have come from? How did it get here? What happened to it along its journey?
- Teacher distributes brainstorming worksheet (see attached) and sets out a variety of objects.
- Each student selects one object
- Students fill out brainstorming sheet

Period 2

- Teacher distributes booklets and drawing materials
- Students make drawing of object on the cover of the booklet

- Students give book a title
- Students write the story of the object in the booklet, based on brainstorming sheet
- Students add additional illustrations as desired

Period 3 (optional)

- Students share booklets (Authors Chair model, or other sharing technique favored by classroom teacher)

Standards:

NJSLSA.W3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

NJSLSA.W4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJSLSA.W10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Visual and Performing Arts

1.3.5.D.3 Each of the [genres](#) of visual art (e.g., realism, surrealism, abstract/nonobjective art, conceptual art, and others) is associated with appropriate vocabulary and a stylistic approach to art-making.

1.3.5.D.4 The characteristics and physical properties of the various materials available for use in art-making present infinite possibilities for potential application.

1.4.5.A.3 Criteria for determining the aesthetic merits of artwork vary according to context. Understanding the relationship between compositional design and [genre](#) provides the foundation for making value judgments about the arts.



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Photo Credit: eBay

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KOKA
2
KOKA 2

Cheeto Harambe

LA Times

Photo credit eBay

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-harambe-flamin-hot-cheeto-burbank-man-ebay-20170208-story.html>



Sleeping Bird Potato Chip

Still from Johnny Carson Show

http://www.tvacres.com/plants_vegetables_chips.htm



Tangerine Snail

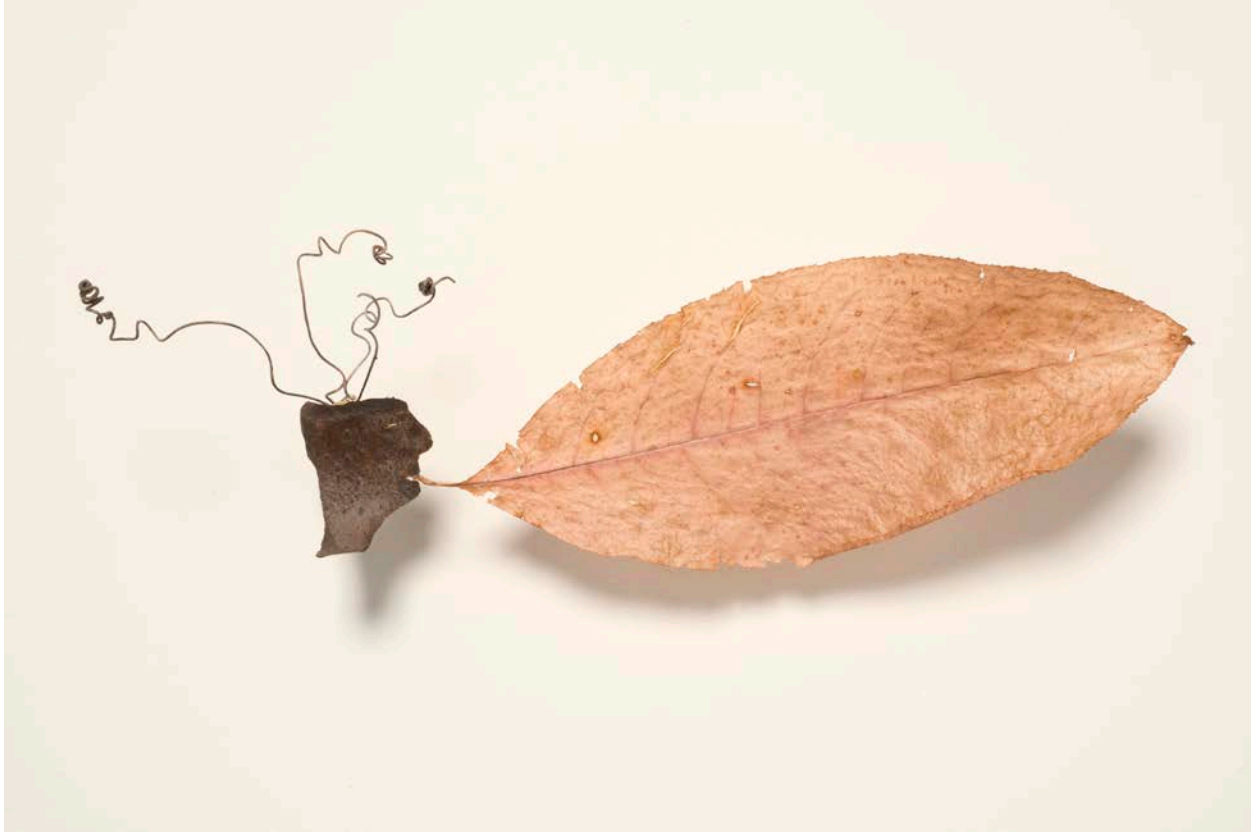
Uncredited photo

<http://randommization.com/2013/11/15/tangerine-snail/>

Images from Alice Momm



Alice Momm
Incidental Leaf Sculptures
Courtesy of Visual Arts Center of New Jersey



Alice Momm
The Storyteller
Courtesy of Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

Brainstorming Sheet

Name: _____

Look at the object you have selected. Try to list as many ideas as you can about it in the spaces below, to help you tell the story of your object.

What could this object be?

What other elements could get added to it?

How old is it?

If it was a creature, where might it have come from?

How did it get here?

What happened to it along its journey?