



Parent & Educator Guide

Welcome

Learning always begins at home and in 2020 and 2021, that statement took on additional meaning. Homes became classrooms and classrooms moved online. The Walters Art Museum aims to enrich the lives of students whether from home or the classroom, supporting a lifelong love of the arts through personal connection.

Walters Classroom Connect is a new multimedia learning resource that was created to support learning, wherever it happens. Comprising videos, activity sheets, and a graphic novel, Classroom Connect encourages students to be curious, question our past and present, and support observations about the world around them. Each resource is developed around a big theme found in the Walters Art Museum collection, which spans across time and place, while building visual literacy and critical thinking skills.

How to Use These Resources

This Parent & Educator Guide is written for adults interested in exploring the Art & Identity theme with a student in the first grade. With more adult support, these same resources may be used for Kindergarten students. You can add some of the “Extra Credit” challenges to make it appropriate for second grade students. The Art & Identity theme investigates what we can learn about individual and collective identity by interrogating art. Together we ask: *How do artists help us imagine who we can be? How does an artist’s identity inform their practice?*

All Classroom Connect resources may be used together or individually. While created to complement one another, students do not need to complete them in any particular order.

Educators working virtually can download each resource and add them to their preferred digital space. When teaching in person, worksheets can be printed using any home printer. Videos are hosted by the Walters and can be viewed anywhere online or downloaded for your convenience. No matter how you plan to use them, each resource will encourage critical thinking and creativity.

Each Classroom Connect resource is designed to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) grade level standards, which are outlined for each component in the pages that follow.



Curriculum and Standards Information for Educators

These resources were especially crafted for first grade students, integrating skills in visual arts, English language arts, and social studies. All resources use works of art from The Walters collection. They align with Standard 1.o (Civics) of the Maryland State Standards and Frameworks in social studies, with a focus on how communities help individuals and groups, why leaders are important, the importance of people working together toward a common goal, and identifying how multiple perspectives in a community can complicate conflict resolution. Further connections to specific MSDE standards are listed under each component below.

What's Inside

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Video: Debunking Busts

The video is approximately 25 minutes long. Two works of art are examined, with engaging discussions on the topics of identity, power, and community. You can watch this video with your child, or let them watch it alone and then use the questions below to have a discussion.

Tips

- The video includes moments to pause and discuss (if you are watching with your child).
- If your child watches the video on their own, spend some time afterward discussing what they learned using the questions below as a starting point.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people make statues?
2. Have you seen any statues lately? If yes, what was the statue or artist asking you to remember?
3. If you could make a statue—who would you want everyone to remember? Why?

Extra Credit

Statues are everywhere. Find a local statue and see how much you can find out together by looking closely and asking questions about material, mood, and message.

Curricular Connections for Educators

This resource supports students meeting the following MSDE and Common Core Standards:

English Language Arts	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
Science	Science & Engineering Practices	Practice 1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems Practice 3: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Social Studies	Standard 1.0 Civics	Content topics: Community and Leadership
Visual Arts	Anchor Standard 7	I:P-2:2: Communicate clearly how to determine how selected artwork represents what people see, know, feel, and imagine.
Visual Arts	Anchor Standard 11	E:P-2:1: Compare and contrast cultural purposes for creating by examining art from different times and places.

Activity: My Personal Seal

This multi-step worksheet can be printed out for your child to work on their own; all they will need is a pencil! Explore an object from our collection while thinking about how symbols make meaning. During this exercise, your child will consider what elements make up their identity and then create symbols to represent each of those elements.

Tips

- Read through the prompts with your child to ensure they understand the instructions.
- When your child has finished the worksheet, discuss it using the questions below.
- If you like, complete the activity, too, and talk with your child about the symbols you each chose and the areas where your identities overlap or are different.

Discussion Questions

1. Tell me about the symbols that you chose to represent your identity.
2. Do you feel like all these parts of your identity are always the same? Or do you sometimes feel some of them more than others?
3. How does your identity change depending on where you are or who you are with?
4. What symbols do you think I would choose to represent my identity?

Extra Credit

Transfer your personal seal to a larger sheet of paper. Add color to emphasize each symbol.

Curricular Connections for Educators

This resource supports students meeting the following MSDE and Common Core Standards:

English Language Arts	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
Science	Science & Engineering Practices	Practice 8: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
Visual Arts	Anchor Standard 1	I:P-2:3: Make use of ideas to communicate about self, others, places, and events.
Visual Arts	Anchor Standard 11	I:P-2:1: Act on creative ideas to examine the role of art as an essential aspect of history and human experience.

Henry Ossawa Tanner: A Graphic Novel

Follow along with your student as you uncover the story of Henry Ossawa Tanner, the first world famous Black American artist. Watch Henry grow and overcome the many barriers before him as he claims his destiny as a great artist.

Parent support will likely be necessary to read the text of this narrative, but your child can explore the pictures independently. Print a hard copy or access via your child's virtual learning device.

Tips

- Let your child look through the pictures and tell you what they think the story is about.
- Read the story out loud with your child, and talk about what matched their predictions and what surprised them.
- As you read the story together, take breaks to discuss what is happening in the story.
- Let your child practice reading the story aloud to you.

Did You Know? It's important to keep reading aloud to your child even once they are reading independently. Research shows that continuing to read aloud to children age 5 and older improves both reading and listening skills, as well as overall academic performance.

Discussion Questions

1. What was different about the Black American experience in Henry's time as compared to today? What is the same?
2. Henry worked hard and knew he was a great artist, even though some people didn't think so. Do you have a great dream that other people doubt?
3. Henry traveled all over the world. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
4. Henry loved to paint. What kinds of things do you like to do?

Extra Credit

With your child, research and read about jobs adults do that relate to your child's interests.

Curricular Connections for Educators

This resource supports students meeting the following MSDE Standards:

Social Studies	Standard 1.0 Civics	Content Topic: Community
Social Studies	Standard 5.0 History	Content Topic: Life in the Past
English Language Arts	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	RL.1.7 Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
English Language Arts	Craft and Structure	RI.1.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text

Share your thoughts!

We would love to hear what you and your child and/or students thought about these resources. Please take 5 minutes to complete the evaluation at this link, which can also be accessed by scanning the QR code below. If you have further thoughts to share, please feel free to email us at schoolprograms@thewalters.org.

Evaluation URL: <https://forms.gle/CXRAU4DEnTUwWweH6>



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