UNIT OF STUDY: Carl Grupp, drawing/printmaking

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: A Matter of Opinion

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:
Fine Arts:
• Visual Arts Standard One 3-4 – Students will describe how visual arts tell stories, express moods, or convey ideas.
• Visual Arts Standard Two 3-4 – Students will understand selected techniques which give artwork detail.
• Visual Arts Standard Two 5-8 – Students will describe the various techniques which give artwork definition and detail.

Writing:
• 4.W.1.2 Students can create sentences using words that describe, explain, or provide additional details and connections.
• 4.W.1.3 Students can compose a paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.
• 5.W.1.1 Students can compose narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive text of one paragraph.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
• Class discussion
• Observation using VTS
• Creation of a painting
• Evaluation of student writing using 6+1 Writing Traits as a guide

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Students will learn about South Dakota artist Carl Grupp.
• Students will discuss observations made using VTS techniques.
• Students will create a painting using paints and the folded paper technique.
• Students will write a descriptive paragraph about their painting.

TIME REQUIRED:
• Two class periods of 30 minutes each
MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
• Image of Carl Grupp’s painting: “Big Rock Candy Mountain”
• Paint
• Paper (both for painting and writing)
• Pens/pencils

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Carl Grupp paints, draws, and is a printmaker. He is Professor Emeritus of Art at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. He has a wide range of artistic talents. To see some of his other works, follow the “Gallery” link listed below.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
• Show students the image of Carl Grupp’s painting, “Big Rock Candy Mountain”.
• Have students use VTS observation to answer a variety of questions like:
  • What do you see?
  • How does this painting make you feel?
  • Why are the colors significant?
  • What do you hear?
  • What is this a picture of?
    • Why do you think this way?
• Discuss student observations as a class. Tell students the title of the painting. Do they see anything different in the painting now that they know the title?
• Have students pick up a sheet of painting paper. Next, tell students to fold the paper in half. Tell students to paint one half of the paper only. Their brush strokes should be made up of a variety of lines of different lengths and of different colors (they can be complimentary colors, primary colors, secondary colors, or a mix of all colors). They are not to paint a specific picture - this should just be random lines.
  • Students need to work rather quickly. The paint should be a thicker consistency paint that has been watered down.
• Once students are happy with their painting, have them fold their paper in half and press hard to transfer the paint from one side of the paper to the other. Have students carefully open their paper and allow time to dry.
• After the paintings have dried, have students write at least one paragraph describing what they see in their painting (remind them that there is no wrong answer for this).

ENRICHMENT:
Have students paint one half of the paper; instead of having them fold their paper and press the colors onto the other side, have students trade paintings with another student so that they can finish the other side of the painting. Together both students could write a story about their painting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:
• South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  • Carl Grupp
• “Big Rock Candy Mountain”. Carl Grupp. 2005