

Abstract Composition

(Grade 6 Print: “Figure Five in Gold” by Demuth)

Curriculum Connection: Social Studies and Writing

Art Concept: Color to establish mood; Complex pattern networks; representational pattern (EALRS 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3,3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.4)

Grade: 5 and up

Materials:

Books of poems

White construction paper (9x12inches)

Colored construction paper (12x18inches)

Tempera Paints and brushes

Water dishes

Newspaper

Black markers

Rulers and pencils

Scissors

Glue

Procedure:

1. Explain to students that they will be writing a poem and then producing artwork that tells about the poem using symbols and geometric shapes (a sort of poster for poem).
2. Remind students that color will be important in expressing the mood of the poetry (warm/cool; bright/dull; decorative/descriptive/symbolic).
3. Once students have completed their poems, have them list items they could include in their poster. Discuss complex pattern networks (checkerboard, overlapping, flat, patterned, blended, repetition, advancing, receding) which could include these items.

4. Discuss geometric form and characteristics of each (natural shapes: fluid, energetic, moving) or (man-made: still, rigid and lifeless).
5. Have students begin using a pencil to draw items included in poster. Remind them to outline items only and to not add small details.
6. Using a black marker, have students trace lines once they are satisfied with artwork.
7. To add color and mood have students use tempera paints to fill-in objects.
8. Glue artwork to colored paper and trim as needed to create a frame.
9. Post artwork alongside students poems.