



“Mouse-terpiece” Collages

Immerse young students in an exploration of texture and color as they use the work of Leo Lionni as inspiration for their own “mouse-terpieces.”

Grade Level: 1-4

Objectives

Students will explore and manipulate art media to create a composition.

Students will create a collage beginning with a main focal point and gradually adding details to completion.

Literature Selections

Matthew's Dream by Leo Lionni

Skills

reading, making predictions, fine motor skills

Set up and Prepare

Introduce the lesson with a brief discussion about dreams.

Share the cover of *Matthew's Dream* with the students and ask them to predict what the story will be about. Write their responses on the board or chart paper. Read the story aloud

to the students stopping periodically to share and discuss events and illustrations. Talk about how Lionni uses a variety of shapes, colors, and textures to add dimension to his collage art.

Tell the students that they will be creating their own “mouse-terpiece” collages. Explain that they will begin their composition with the mouse and then gradually add more details to complete the composition. Remind them to incorporate different colors, shapes, and textures to add depth to their collages. Using a combination of torn paper and cut paper will also add dimension to the projects.

When they have finished their compositions, suggest that they add a frame as a final touch. Display the collages proudly in your own “Mouse-terpiece Art Gallery.”



Materials

Elmer's Clear School Glue Sticks or Elmer's Disappearing Purple Glue Sticks, newspapers, magazines, scissors, construction paper (Note: Clear Glue Sticks are repositionable, making it easier for students to adjust objects in their collages as they create them.)

Preparation

Provide each student with a large piece of construction paper.

Encourage them to search through the magazines and newspapers for textures and colors that might work well in their collage.