

Lesson: Our Story  
Visual(s): William H. Johnson Poster  
Production: Culture Portraits

# SEVENTH & EIGHTH LESSONS

## Objectives

**Students will** draw a scene from everyday life using simple contour lines. They will draw from live models.

**Standard 6:** Students make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines.

**Benchmark:** Understand the similarities between visual art and other arts disciplines (performing arts, literature, practical arts) that share common themes, historical periods, or cultural context.

## Lesson Plan

### **Discussion Opener (anticipatory set):**

Choose a few volunteers to re-create the scene in “Early Morning Work” by William H. Johnson. Show the painting only to those volunteers. Have the volunteers dress up and model the scene for the rest of the class. Have them make up a short conversation that the people may be having as they work.

Show the poster of “Early Morning Work”. Volunteers may sit down.

Ask the class: When do you think this scene took place? Where?

Share some information about William H. Johnson: He was born in South Carolina in 1901. When he was young he realized that his desire to become an artist wasn't possible in the segregated South. He moved to New York in 1918. He traveled to Europe and continued to learn to paint. He moved back to New York and created paintings that simply gave the story of black people as they exist. His paintings give us a glimpse of his culture in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Understand... (the big idea/ standards/benchmarks)**

Just like literature, art can be used to tell the stories of how people live.

### **Know...**

Artist (locate the artist on the map)

Elements: line, shape, color

Principles: balance, movement, rhythm

Vocabulary

Contour line- line that defines the edges and develops the illusion of volume and space

Culture- the lifestyle of a particular group of people

### **Be able to do (art production)...**

Practice contour drawings in the back of student notebook.

Think about your culture: What are the everyday activities that you are involved in? How do your beliefs influence your activities? How would you describe your lifestyle using art instead of words?

As a class, choose an everyday activity for the model(s) to demonstrate. Use exaggerated contour lines to draw the models. Do not draw a lot of details in the figures. Draw a background that would fit with the activity. Trace your lines with a black marker. Use brightly colored oil pastels to color the figures and background.

### **Art Criticism (describe,analyze, interpret, judge)**

Major Objective: Art lessons will focus on creating art in the styles of some of the major artists from the Renaissance through the present. Art lessons will also incorporate the Elements and Principles of design.

Theme: To develop an appreciation for a variety of art styles throughout history and to develop awareness that art reflects a wide range of thought and expression.