

Teaching News Is Elementary January 29, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition, colored pencils, pencil and paper.

Article: “SAM parks old installation for Wiley painting”

Pages: Main News, A1

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Read the title of this article and look at the photos accompanying the article. Why do you think the cars in the photo are hanging from the ceiling? What do you think is sticking out of the cars? When you look at the cars what do you feel/think? Do you know what SAM is? What do you think SAM might be based on the photos accompanying the article?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

“Though some visitors think of “Inopportune” as **whimsical** or silly, Snead said, it has more serious **undertones**.”

whimsical: unusual in a playful or amusing way; not serious

undertones: a quality, meaning, etc., that is present but not clear or obvious

“But the most **gratifying** responses came from children on school trips who seemed to be dragging their feet at the door but, once they spotted the cars overhead, got excited.”

gratifying: giving pleasure or satisfaction

“It was **poignant**, like ‘maybe the museum isn’t such a bad place after all.’”

poignant: affecting or moving the emotions

Journal Writing Prompts:

“Sometimes students would stand beneath one of the cars, he said, and ‘act as if they’re a superhero, holding up the car with their superpowers.’”

Imagine you are given a special power and with it you can become a superhero. What special power would you want to have and why? What would you do with this special power? What superhero name would you give yourself?

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpts and discuss the following questions:

“But the most gratifying responses came from the children on school trips who seemed to be dragging their feet at the door but, once they spotted the cars overhead, got excited.”

“Their faces light up and become open to the possibilities the museum might have,” Snead said, “It was poignant, like ‘maybe the museum isn’t such a bad place after all.’”

What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘museum’? What is the purpose of a museum? What different types of museums are there? Have you ever been to a museum? What did you like the most about the museum? What did you like the least? What types of museums do you have in the city you live in? Do you think museums are important – why or why not?

Small group discussion and activity:

“Snead said he’s looking forward to the Wiley exhibition, which features largescale paintings of African Americans in the meticulous style of 18th-century aristocratic portraits.”

“His painting is so relevant to what’s going on today and elevates the conversation to a whole other level,” Snead said. “And I am excited anytime we get something new.”

How do you think art can be relevant to “what is going on today”? How do you think artists express themselves in their work? What is your favorite type of art and why? How does that type of art make you feel? As a group discuss and make a list of various forms of art that you like and what appeals to you about that art form (painting, sculpture, dance, music, photography, etc.). Then make a poster board with pictures or a drawing depicting each of your group members’ favorite art form with adjectives describing each art form and/or why you like it.