

Lesson Plan

Surrealism: Visions of the Mind

Title: A Letter Home

In response to Guillermo Silva's *Luna Lena* and Hank Laventhal's *L'image de Rose*.

Please discuss students' regular curriculum with the Artmobile Educator, for possible referential connections to material with which the students are already familiar. This lesson incorporates writing components that align with the Common Core State Standards. This lesson may be adjusted and adapted to suit the physical limits and time restraints of the hosting venue. This lesson is adaptable to be appropriate for the developmental abilities of any audience. Please discuss your needs with the Artmobile Educator.

Lesson Overview: Students will observe the work in the exhibition *Surrealism: Visions of the Mind*. After the initial viewing, students will discuss what they saw, and then return to the exhibition. Students will be invited to engage in a conversation about the ways in which an artist or writer might create an imaginary place. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the whimsical spaces of surrealism by imagining they are writing a letter home from either of the places portrayed by Silva and Laventhal.

Observe: Students will initially experience the exhibition while taking notes and making sketches of their observations. Students will be asked to study what they think is important, and then to share their observations. Students will be directed to the work of Silva and Laventhal and asked to describe the places they see.

Question: Students will ask questions and engage in a dialogue about imaginary places.

Guiding Questions:

- How do you think the artist imagined this place?
- Have you ever dreamt that you were somewhere you have never been in your waking life?
- What do you think it is like to be in one of these places?

Explore: Students will be given the opportunity to share their interpretations of the observed places.

Create: Students will be invited to imagine that they are in one of these imaginary places. They will use a letter format to write a letter home their daily lives in this place.

Reflect: Students will be given the opportunity to share their letters and describe life as they imagine it in one of these places.

Suggestions for Teachers:

K-4

Read "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak

Read “Harold and the Purple Crayon” by Crockett Johnson

Possible Vocabulary: Imagination, Play, Dream

5-8

Read “The Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum

Possible Vocabulary: Imaginary, Surreal, Dream, Hallucination

7-12

Study the work of Giorgio de Chirico

Read “Utopia” by Thomas Moor

Possible Vocabulary: Imaginary, Surreal, Dream, Hallucination, Utopia/Dystopia

Suggested Use in the Curriculum: The study of *Surrealism: Visions of the Mind* ties into multiple curricular areas including visual arts, performing arts, music, language arts, philosophy, history and social studies, science, math, engineering, and business.

Specific Connections to the Wyoming State Standards for Visual and Media Art

K-4

S1: Creative Expression Through Production: FPA 4.1.A.1; FPA 4.1.A.2; FPA 4.1.A.3; FPA 4.1.A.4; FPA 4.1.A.5; FPA 4.1.A.6

S2: Aesthetic Perception: FPA 4.2.A.1; FPA 4.2.A.2; FPA 4.2.A.3; FPA 4.2.A.4

S3: Historical and Cultural Context: FPA 4.3.A.1; FPA 4.3.A.2; FPA 4.3.A.3

S4: Artistic Connections: FPA 4.4.A.1; FPA 4.4.A.4

5-8

S1: Creative Expression Through Production: FPA 8.1.A.1; FPA 8.1.A.2; FPA 8.1.A.3; FPA 8.1.A.4; FPA 8.1.A.5; FPA 8.1.A.6

S2: Aesthetic Perception: FPA 8.2.A.1; FPA 8.2.A.2; FPA 8.2.A.3; FPA 8.2.A.4;

S3: Historical and Cultural Context: FPA 8.3.A.1; 8.3.A.2; FPA 8.3.A.3

S4: Artistic Connections: FPA 8.4.A.1; FPA 8.4.A.3; FPA 8.4.A.4

9-12

S1: Creative Expression Through Production: FPA 11.1.A.1; FPA 11.1.A.2; FPA 11.1.A.3; FPA 11.1.A.4; FPA 11.1.A.5; FPA 11.1.A.6

S2: Aesthetic Perception: FPA 11.2.A.1; FPA 11.2.A.2; FPA 11.2.A.3; FPA 11.2.A.4

S3: Historical and Cultural Context: FPA 11.3.A.1; FPA 11.3.A.2; FPA 11.3.A.3

S4: Artistic Connections: FPA 11.4.A.1; FPA 11.4.A.3; FPA 11.4.A.4

Inherent connections to the Common Core State Standards for Speaking and Listening exist within the lesson, along with possible connections to the Common Core State Standards for Writing.