

Visual Art and Teaching English



....A Match Made in Heaven

Connie Greenleaf, Senior English Language Fellow,
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**One picture is worth
1,000 Words....**

**What do THESE pictures
say to YOU?**













Why Use Visual Art in the English Classroom?



Brain Research

- ❁ Visual Mode Stronger Connection for Memory
 - ❁ Paint a picture in your mind as an activation technique pre-writing, or pre-reading
- ❁ Emotional Response Stronger Connection for Memory

In November 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges Hall became the first African American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school. Although she only lived a few blocks from the William Frantz Elementary school in New Orleans, Louisiana. U.S. Deputy Marshals had to escort Ruby because of angry mobs that gathered in front of the school. For an entire year, she was the only student in her class because white parents pulled their children from the school in protest.



Art speaks to us, and makes us want to Speak

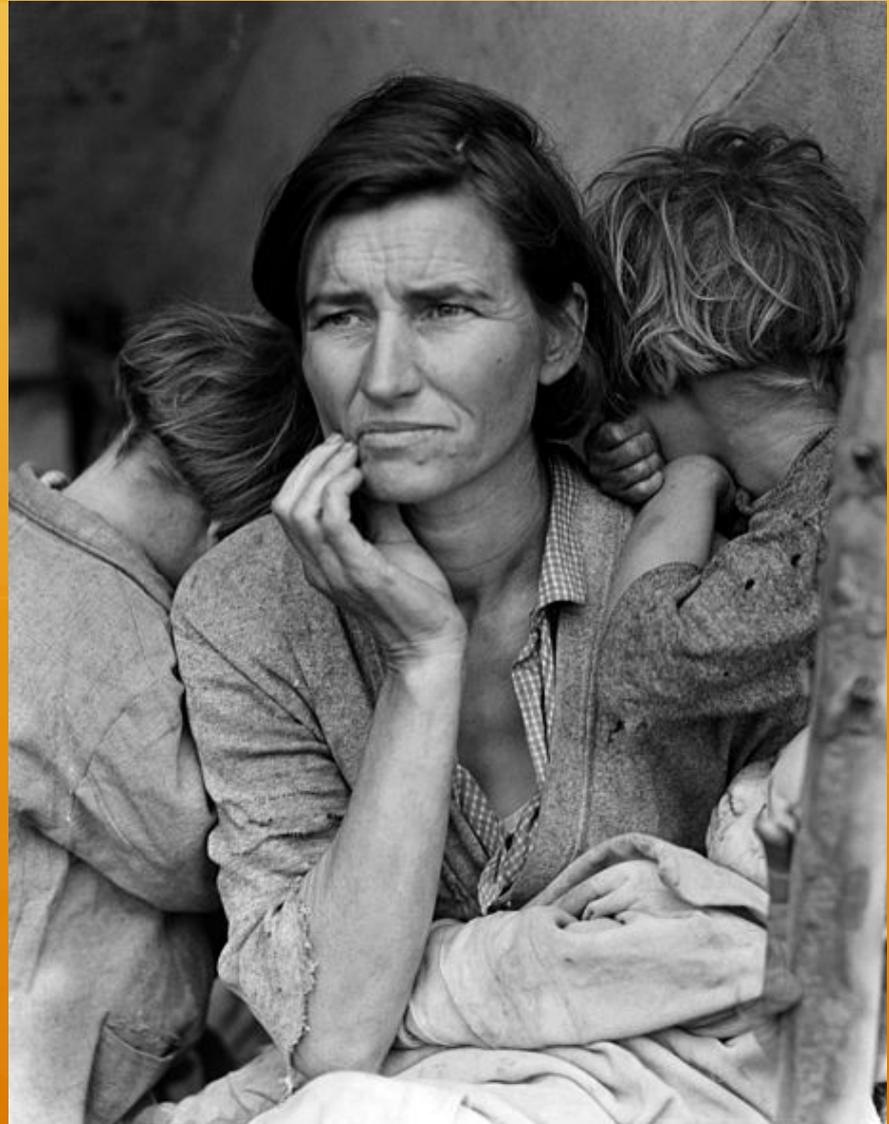
Art SPEAKS to our **INNER SELVES**, so it is extremely motivating in the language classroom because we all want to share important thoughts about the human condition, explore ways we are the same, what we identify with, what we are repelled by or attracted to.



MOTIVATION

Emotional Response =
HIGH Motivation

We are all human, so
have a need to
express our emotions



Visual Art can serve as a CATALYST for....



Discussion



- One thing I think of when I see this painting is....
- One question I have about this painting is.....
- I wonder.....
- In my opinion, I think the artist was trying to say.....

Prewriting or QuickWrite





WRITING

Reading



SHEPERD FAIREY

Born in southern California in 1970, Shepard Fairey was heavily influenced by the growing punk rock and skateboarding lifestyle. He had little interest in skateboarding until his friend left his skateboard over at his house one night. On his fourteenth birthday, Shepard Fairey's parents bought him a skateboard, which led Fairey to a world of "Thrasher Magazine", the Sex Pistols and other punk rock/skateboarding influences.

Using a screen printer in his art class, he figured out how to create t-shirts from stencils for himself and his friends, which later gave way to his simplistic style that he uses today in his artwork.

Cultural Spy Glass

Art is a **REFLECTION** of
or a **COMMENT** on a
Culture's

🌸 **NORMS**

🌸 **VALUES**





Sample Lesson:

Dress for Success

by Susan Krasnican





It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers?

Experience is a good teacher, but she sends terrific bills?

Good friends are good for your health?

Don't take life too seriously-you'll never get out alive?

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts?

Eighty percent of success is showing up?

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names?

The only place where success is before work is in the dictionary?

It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers?



Experience is a good teacher, but she sends terrific bills?



Good friends are good for your health, but you can't have them all alive?



...good for your health?

...take life too seriously-you'll never get out alive?

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts?

Eighty percent of success is showing up?

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names?

The only place where success is before work is in the dictionary?

- ❁ It is better to ask some of the questions than know all of the answers?
- ❁ Experience is a terrific teacher, but she sends terrific bills?
- ❁ Good friends are good for your health?
- ❁ Don't take life too seriously; you'll never get out alive?
- ❁ It's what you learn after you know it all that counts?
- ❁ 80% of success is showing up?
- ❁ Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names?
- ❁ The only place where success is before work is in the dictionary?

Susie Krasnican

born Alliance, OH 1954; resides Silver Spring, MD

Dress for Success 1997

enamels, glass, and found objects

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Anne and Ronald Abramson, Vera and Robert Loeffler, Elmerina and Paul Parkman, and Maurine Littleton Gallery, 1999.48

Many thanks to (reading left to right):

1. James Thurber, *Fables for Our Time*, 1940
2. Minna Antrim, *Naked Truths and Veiled Allusions*, 1901
3. Irwin Sarason, *New York Times*, August 27, 1985
4. Elbert Hubbard, *The Roycroft Dictionary and Book of Epigrams*, 1923
5. John Wooden, *They Call Me Coach*, 1972
6. Woody Allen, 1982
7. Attributed to John F. Kennedy
8. Vidal Sassoon

Picturing America

