



Ashley Bryan

# PAPER COLLAGE

Developed with  
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Janesville, WI  
Grades 4-8

## Objectives

*Students will:*

- Learn about artist, author, and poet Ashley Bryan.
- Discuss the elements and principles of design.
- Explore collage as an art form.
- Utilize construction paper as the primary medium for their artwork.
- Talk about how literature and art are connected
- Create written work or use excerpts from a book as inspiration for their art.

## Art Standards

Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.  
Revise artwork in progress on the basis of insights gained through peer discussion.  
Compare responses to a work of art before and after working in similar media.

## Language Arts Standards:

- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
- Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

## Discussion

This artistic style will be shared and explored while reading a selected book to students. A discussion can follow to encourage student reflection on how collages expressed subjects or ideas in the text. Also, directing students to notice the layers of colour and shape in the book illustrations will help them analyze and identify the background, middle ground, foreground, subject and details. Following the discussion, a studio demonstration of this layered approach will help prepare students to work from the background forward in two or more layers in their own projects. After the demonstration of layered collage technique, students will create a collage. The goal is for them to express an idea they are interested in and feel motivated to explore through the art studio activity. The idea can be written by the student, or can be inspired from a text selection in literature or poetry.



## Introduction

This lesson plan was inspired by the work of Ashley Bryan, an artist, author, and poet who writes and illustrates books around a variety of themes. The collage medium is skillfully used by the artist, who creates colourful shapes arranged in layers in space.

The following book titles are just a few of Ashley Bryan's works to have available for students to explore and to help them get motivated.

- *Let It Shine*
- *Beautiful Blackbird*
- *Sail Away, Maritime Poems of Langston Hughes*

# Instructions

1

Students begin by choosing the size of their collage and sketching out a basic idea of what they will do.



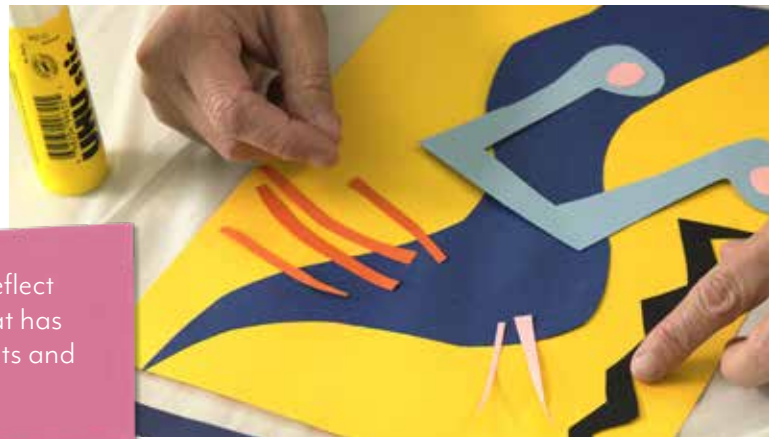
2

Have students start working on the background. The layering of larger colours and shapes with the collage technique can help express the chosen text.



3

Students should work forward in layers. Add smaller shapes and details to create a rich and interesting collage surface.



Halfway through the collage process, students can reflect on the process to determine what is working and what has been challenging. In pairs, they can share their insights and problem-solve solutions to improve their art pieces.

4

When the collage is finished, have students cover with Mod Podge® to bond all layers and seal the artwork.



5

After the project is completed, students can have time to reflect on and create a response about their experience.



## Materials List

- Pacon® Tru-Ray® Fade-Resistant Construction Paper
  - 9" x 12", 50 sheets of one colour — [9708565A-9708565BC](#)
  - 9" x 12", 50 sheets in 10 assorted colours — [9708565AR](#)
  - 12" x 18", 50 sheets of one colour — [9708564A-9708564BC](#)
  - 12" x 18", 50 sheets in 10 assorted colours — [9708564AR](#)
- UHU® Clear Glu-Stic, 0.74 oz. — [8100106](#)
- School Works!® Safety Point Scissors - 7" Student Scissors — [9729183](#)
- Mod Podge® Matte, 16 oz. — [9718738](#)

## Resources

Ashley Bryan, Author, Artist, and Poet  
 For more information about Ashley Bryan's life, art, books, and the work of the Ashley Bryan Center, please visit their website at [ashleybryancenter.org](http://ashleybryancenter.org) and their Facebook page at [facebook.com/ashleybryancenter](https://facebook.com/ashleybryancenter)



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