

Understanding by Design Template

Title: Teacher(s): School: Subject: Grade Level: Duration:	Using Walt Whitman's poem "Leaves of Grass" and Takamori's girl and boy as inspiration for writing a celebration of self. Gerry Syms St. Marks Language 4 th or 5 th 45 – 60 minutes (3 sessions)
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Stage 1: Desired Results

Standards:

What relevant standards will this design address? (Be sure to integrate other subject matter Standards)

726. Writing

04. Write for literary response and expression

Essential Questions for Students:

What provocative questions will foster inquiry, understanding and transfer of learning?

- What can you tell about the artist's possible ethnic background by looking at this piece. What clues do you see?
- Do you think the figures represent the artist himself? What period in his life do you think he is portraying ?
- Who do you think the figures represent? What do you think their relationship is?
- Why do you think the artist used more than one figure?
- Imagine that the platform these two figures are on is a stage. Where would you place the figures if you could move them? Why?
- What kinds of colors do you see? Why do you think the artist chose so few?
- Do you see any repeating patterns?
- What materials did the artist use? Do you think the figures are solid or hollow?
- Can you tell what media the artist used?
- What do you think their clothing reflects about what they may be doing?
- Put yourself in one of the figures place. Which one would you be? Why?

Knowledge and Skill (Learning Targets):

What key knowledge and skills will students acquire as a result of this unit? What should they eventually be able to do as a result of such knowledge and skill?

I can...

- Compose a response using ideas and techniques from a variety of literature and fine arts that represent many cultures and perspectives.
- Write and publish original creative works that include figurative and descriptive language.
- Respond to a particular piece of literature and relate it to my own experiences.

Stage 2: Assessment Evidence

Through what evidence will students demonstrate achievement of the desired results? By what criteria will the level of achievement be measured?

What will be assessed?	How will it be assessed?
*ability to produce literary response (poem)	*teacher assessment based on form and content in “Leaves of Grass”
*use of figurative and descriptive language	*peers identifying “favorite things” about fellow students
	*self assessment
	*teacher assessment based on recollection of childhood, memories, favorite things, and the importance of self.

Stage 3: Learning Activities

What learning experiences and instruction will enable students to achieve the desired results? How will the activities be adapted to meet all students' interests, abilities and needs?

- *Visit BAM, view permanent collection or provide transparency
- *Read and assess Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" p.1
- *Compare author's style to artist's style regarding importance of self beginning with Whitman's first line "I celebrate myself...."
- *Generate poem celebrating "self" in the style of "Leaves of Grass," using Takamori's boy and girl as inspiration.
- *Respond to particular piece of literature, "Leaves of Grass", and relate to own experiences by creating poem about one's childhood, fond memories, favorite things and the importance of self in relationship to others.

Adapted from McTighe, Jay & Wiggins, Grant. *Understanding by Design Professional Development Workbook*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2004.