

LIVING IN A FAMILY

The folk artist has been commonly identified as that person who has had no formal art training and who creates from an inner passion and drive. Often materials used are those found in the artist's environment-wood, recycled objects, salvaged tin, shells, natural vines and limbs-virtually anything the artist can find to help express his or her ideas. The folk artist makes a personal statement about his or her culture, religion, beliefs, family, or any subject which has deep meaning. The collection at Hickory Museum of Art features a diversity of artists and subject matter. Many of these artists began their works late in life when seeking a way to satisfy the creative urge or deal with inner visions.

GRADE LEVEL: 1-2

North Carolina Essential Standards: Language Arts

Estimated time: 60 minutes

COMPETENCY GOAL 1: The learner will analyze how individuals, families, and groups are similar and different.

Objectives:

- The student will compare and contrast the concept of family through two works of art.
- The student will apply the traits pictured to family life in today's society.
- The student will learn about two folk artists.

MATERIALS:

- Visuals of Lonnie Holley's *Get on Your Knees With Your Child* and Arie Taylor's *Family Reunion*
- Art materials: paper, crayons, construction paper, paint

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Lonnie Holley was born in 1950 in Birmingham, Alabama, the seventh of twenty-seven children. He was adopted by his grandmother who taught him to search through trash dumps to find recycled items they could use. Much of Holley's childhood was spent in abusive conditions. In 1979 after the tragic death of his nieces in a house fire, Holley began expressing his feelings through art, first making tombstones for his nieces. He later turned to painting and found an outlet for his images and personal feelings.

Arie Taylor, born in 1921 in the Vale Community of Catawba County, North Carolina, still resides in that area. She was the daughter of Minnie Reinhardt, a renowned folk artist who became known for her memory paintings of her life in rural Catawba County. Ms. Taylor's paintings also often reflect memories of her childhood. *Family Reunion* is a depiction of the annual gathering held by her family to celebrate her father's birthday.

LESSON ACTIVITIES

Introduction

- Review the concept of family-talk about personal families
- Read a short story that emphasizes the positive dynamics within a family (E. *Berenstein Bears*)

- Brainstorm words that describe a family
- Brainstorm activities that families might do together

Discussion:

View the reproductions of the two paintings and discuss each:

- What is happening in each picture?
- What do you see?
- Have you ever experienced anything similar?
- What might happen at a reunion?
- Why do families have them?
- What message might you get from Holley's painting?

Activity:

- Refer to the words used to describe families; which might apply to these pictures?
- Think about an activity you share with your family. Draw a picture of it.
- Share family pictures with classmates.

POST ACTIVITIES

- Visit the Hickory Museum of Art and view these paintings and others.
- Assign a "long-range" project dealing with family and have the children make a Family Scrapbook.

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

- Students are able to relate concept of family to personal life.
- Students are able to articulate observations concerning photos.