

LITERACY LINK TO THE ARTS

Linking literacy to our exhibitions offers another opportunity for exploring and connecting with the art in the galleries and on the grounds of the Arts Center. Enjoy the images and stories, and discover your own links to the arts.

Note to parents and teachers: please preview this book before sharing with your child(ren) and student(s). This history link is suggested for ages 10 and up.

Dr. Charles Smith



Dr. Charles Smith, *Horn Player*: Louis Armstrong Series, c. 1985–c. 1999; concrete, paint, and mixed media; 32 3/4 x 9 1/2 x 13 1/2 in. John Michael Kohler Arts Center Collection, gift of Kohler Foundation Inc.

Dr. Charles Smith (b. 1940) is an artist, activist, minister, veteran, and historian. He creates figural sculptures about black history to educate and create a more equitable representation of the untold histories of African-American people.

His sculptures show famous events in history, such as the Civil Rights Movement, and scenes from everyday life, such as a family eating dinner together. He often adds details to the sculptures in the form of found objects like hats, broken glass, and fabric. Dr. Smith's artwork, created around his home—first in Aurora, Illinois, and currently in Hammond, Louisiana—is an artist-built environment that he titled African-American Heritage Museum + Black Veterans Archive. His museum is always open to visitors.

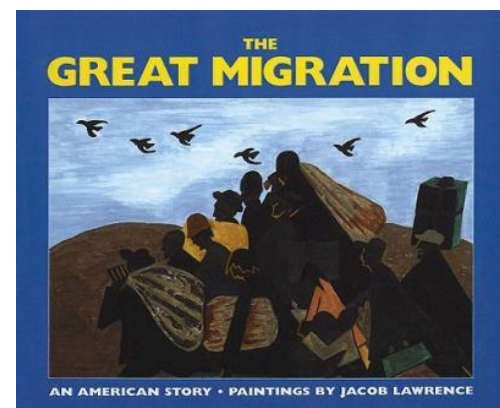
The Great Migration: An American Story

by Walter Dean Myers, paintings by Jacob Lawrence

Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) was an African-American painter during the Harlem Renaissance (1910-1930). The Harlem Renaissance was when many African-American musicians, writers, and artists were living and working in New York City.

Like many artists of the Harlem Renaissance, Jacob Lawrence drew from his experiences in the African-American community to inspire his artwork. His paintings are important because they record scenes of everyday life and significant moments in African-American history.

The Great Migration: An American Story is about African-Americans who migrated from the South to the North in the United States in the early 1900s. Jacob Lawrence created a series of paintings about the Great Migration. His paintings are used to illustrate the story.



Myers, Walter Dean, 1995, *The Great Migration*, HarperCollins Publishers

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Discuss

After reading the story, journal about or discuss

- What questions do you have about the Great Migration?
- How did the story make you feel?
- What painting did you spend the most time looking at? What is happening in the painting?

Words to Know

Representation

Generally, representation is a verbal, written, or visual description of a person, event, culture, place, or objects. Cultural representation means the history of all people is taught and shared truthfully and equally.

Figural Sculpture

Three-dimensional art that represents or has elements of real forms, particularly the forms of humans and animals.

Artist-built Environment

A unique place—usually a home—that is transformed by an artist. Often inspired by the life experiences of the artist, they typically are made using nearby and easily accessible materials.

Found Object

Items that are used as nontraditional art-making tools or materials. Often, a found object is something that was discarded or no longer usable for its original purpose. It can also be something from nature that can be collected, such as driftwood and rocks. Sometimes a found object is functional for its original purpose, but it is used in a different way in an artwork. For example, buttons can become a texture that covers a sculpture.