

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.

Dr. Charles Smith



Dr. Charles Smith (b. 1940) is an artist, activist, minister, veteran, and historian.

In 1986, he began creating a museum at his home for his sculptures of African-American people from history. He calls his museum the “African-American Heritage Museum + Black Veterans Archive.”

Dr. Charles Smith uses found objects that he finds near his home to help him build these sculptures. He hopes that his artwork will teach the untold histories of African-American people.

(left) 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.

Jacob Lawrence: In the City

by Susan Goldman Rubin, 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.

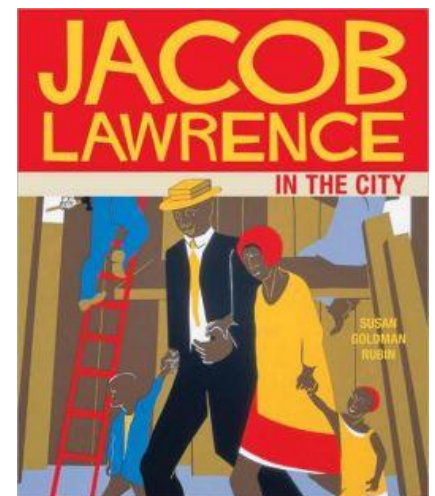
Like many artists of the Harlem Renaissance, Jacob Lawrence drew from his experiences in the African-American community to inspire his artwork. His paintings are important because they record scenes of everyday life and significant moments in African-American history.

Read *Jacob Lawrence: In the City* to see examples of Harlem and hear sounds from the Harlem Renaissance. As you read, can you find these shapes and images?

Light Bulb Kite Dog Umbrella Heart

Can you find these words and then make the sounds yourself?

“BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!” “RAT-A-TAT,” “CLAP IT OUT”



Rubin, Susan Goldman, 2009, *Jacob Lawrence in the City*, San Francisco, Chronicle Books