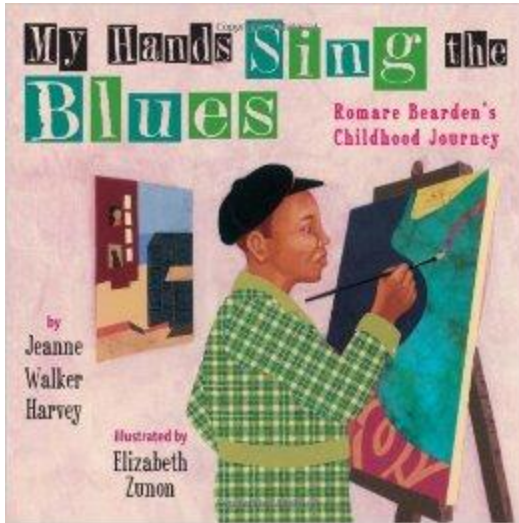


# ART & THE LIBRARY

## *Tell a Story Collage Art*

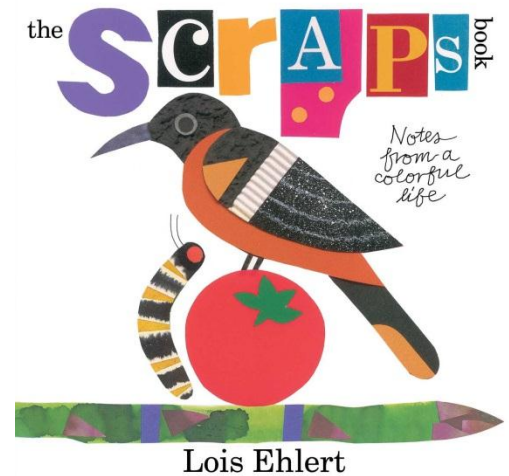
### Book Connection



In celebration of Black History month, February's newsletter spotlights the African American collage artist, Romare Bearden. In *My Hands Sing the Blues* by Jeanne Walker Harvey, Bearden's childhood journey is depicted through rhythmic captions and narrative, collage-style illustrations. Bearden's work tells the stories of the African American culture that he observed. His interesting and stylized collages are personal, poignant, and relevant in our day.

Collage is a medium that is, surprisingly, very common in many

children's book illustrations. It's a fun, unique, and diverse method of illustration that adds texture, history, and expression to many beloved stories. One illustrator that uses collage as her medium is Lois Ehlert. In *The Scraps Book*, an autobiography, Ehlert goes through her life and methods using many colors, textures, and images. This book is a great way to learn about collage while gaining new insight into the process of an illustrator.



### Inspired Activity

Inspired by the descriptive collages of Romare Bearden, our activity this month will be story collages. This project is a great way to introduce narrative and illustration as art. Materials needed for this project are: thick, durable paper (Cardstock, construction paper, etc.), sketch paper, collage material (Magazines, old books, newspapers, etc.), pencils, scissors, glue sticks, and markers (optional).

1. To begin: Introduce collage, Romare Bearden, and his work. Afterwards, students will need to brainstorm a story or memory before they start their collage. They should choose a couple of stories/memories and write a list of the *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where* of their story. Another

option and good way to make this a cross curricular project; is for students to illustrate a scene from a story that they've already written.

2. Next, students should choose a story/memory and draw a quick sketch of what they think it should look like. Explain that similar to writing, it's good to create "rough drafts" before our final artwork; this means that it doesn't have to be perfect and it will probably look very different when they're finished with their final collage, but that it's good to start with a plan.

3. This step requires a little "research," as each student will browse the collage material and cut and choose images that they will need for their collage. They might not use everything they cut and they might need a little more, but it's a good start.

4. Once they have all the collage material that they'll need, they should begin laying out their collage on their final paper.

Explain that gluing is the very *last* step of making a collage, they shouldn't glue until they have all of the pieces and each piece in the exact spot that it needs to be.

5. Gluing will be their last step. This project would make a great exhibition as each child writes a short story about their collage to display along with their artwork.



*Jazz Village* by Romare Bearden

### **Related Artists**

Romare Bearden

Faith Ringgold

Kerry James Marshall

Jean-Michel Basquiat

Kara Walker

Kehinde Wiley

Henri Matisse

Shepard Fairey

Hannah Höch

Ashley Edwards

Jasper Johns

### **AR Visual Art Standards K-8**

Creating – Content Standards 1-3

Presenting – Content Standard 6

Connecting – Content Standards 10-11

## **Additional Library Resources**

### **Print**

*The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle [PIC Carle Eric]

*Market Day* by Lois Ehlert [PIC Ehlert Lois]

*Me and Uncle Romie* by Claire Hartfield [PIC Hartfield Claire]

*My Hands Sing the Blues* by Jeanne Walker Harvey [PIC Harvey Jeanne Walker]  
*Harlem Renaissance Party* by Faith Ringgold [PIC Ringgold Faith]  
*The Twelve Dancing Princesses* by Rachel Isadora [ENF 398.2 ISA]  
*Henri's Scissors* by Jeanette Winter [ENF 92 Matisse Henri]  
*Collages* by Sue Stocks [JNF 702 STO]  
*1-2-3 I Can Collage!* by Irene Luxbacher [JNF 702.81 LUX]  
*The Scraps Book* by Lois Ehlert [JNF 92 Ehlert Lois]

## **E-Learning on our website's Student Portal**

### **(K-4) eLibrary Elementary (Proquest) –**

Anonymous. "Romare Bearden: Layers of History." *Scholastic Art*. 01 Feb. 2014: 8. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

Anonymous. "5 Things to Know About Romare Bearden." *Scholastic Art*. 01 Feb. 2014: 10. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

Baily, Cate. "Voices of the Harlem Renaissance." *Scholastic Scope*. 07 Feb. 2003: 14. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

"Harlem Renaissance." *Compton's by Britannica*, v 6.0. 2009. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

### **(K-4) World Book Online for Kids -**

"Johns, Jasper." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2016. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

"Ringgold, Faith." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2016. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

"Harlem." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2016. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

"Basquiat, Jean-Michel." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2016. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

"Matisse, Henri." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2016. Web. 05 Jan. 2016.

### **(5-6) World Book Student -**

Easby, Rebecca Jeffrey. "Collage." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2016.

Leveton, Deborah. "Bearden, Romare." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2016.

Williams, Andréa N. "Harlem Renaissance." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2016.

Cech, John. "Ringgold, Faith." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2016.

Plante, Michael. "Matisse, Henri." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2016.