

Collage Art Literacy Project

Inspired by Beatriz Milhazes

Vocabulary

Collage - a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric on to a backing.

Supplies:

White cardstock	Paper shapes, cutouts, scrapbooking paper, etc.
Tacky glue	Paper condiment cups
Paintbrushes (for glue)	Scissors
Trays	Placemats
Plastic cups (for tracing circles)	Sharpies
Shape punches	Washi tape

Setup notes

- Keeping like colors together, ensure there are sufficient shapes, cutouts, strips, scrapbook paper, etc. in each colored tray
- Set up a supply station in the classroom (an empty table or the art lit cart will work) and set out each filled trays, washi tape, plastic cups, shape punches, and scissors.
- Pour a small amount of glue in each cup - one cup per student
- Put placemats on desks

The Project

- Show students where the supply station is located in the classroom and explain that they will be called up to select their materials and they can revisit throughout the lesson. You may want to call students up by table group or as they are ready to begin.
- Hand out cardstock and instruct students to write their name and class code (grade + teacher last initial) on the back using pencil.
- Encourage students to think about what recurring shapes, colors, patterns they want to use and plan what to glue first and what will be layered on top. *Optional: Students can use a pencil to lightly sketch an outline.*
- Call students up to select the paper shapes, cutouts, tape, etc. they want to use. Ask them to choose 4-5 items to start; they can come back to “shop” again throughout the lesson. They may also cut paper or shapes using regular or decorative scissors. Have students take sections of washi tape back to their desks rather than the entire roll.
- Once students have selected their pieces, hand out a cup of glue and paintbrush. Using the tacky glue and plastic paintbrushes, glue the first layer of materials to the base paper/cardstock. Encourage students to layer shapes, colors, patterns, etc. as they saw in Milhazes artwork.
- Students may also choose to draw over their collage using sharpie markers; make sure the glue has dried enough so the paper is not wet or slippery before using markers.

Clean up & Display

- Put any unused paper shapes/usable scraps back into the color-coordinated trays. Try to keep things separated by color.
- Wipe up any glue from the desks/placemats.
- Paintbrushes used for glue can be thrown away.
- Once glue is dry, mount artwork to black construction paper and add student label.
- Hang on classroom Art Lit gallery wall.