

# A Learning Guide

Supplemental Readings and Resources  
Aligned with Academic Standards  
for ELA and The Arts

By Ekuwah Mends Moses

## Anchor Standards for Reading

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1**  
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3**  
Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7**  
Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10**  
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

## Anchor Standards for Writing

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2**  
Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7**  
Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8**  
Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.10**  
Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## National Core Arts Standards

### Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre And Visual Arts

#### Creating:

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.  
Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

#### Performing, Presenting, Producing:

Anchor Standard #4. Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.  
Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

#### Responding:

Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.  
Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.  
Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

#### Connecting:

Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.  
Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.



# Discussion Questions

## Before Reading

Show the cover of the book to students and walk through the book without reading the words. Ask them the following questions.

What do you notice?

What do you see that makes you say that? ([Printable](#))

What do you wonder?

What do you want to know?

What do you know about visual art, portraiture, and/or the arts as a career?

**Introduce students to the author and illustrator - Ekuwah Mends Moses.**

Visit Ekuwah's website: <https://www.ekuwah.com/mamasportraits>

## During Reading

**Look at the images on each page.**

What do you notice?

What do you see that makes you say that?

What questions do you still have?

Explain how specific aspects of the book's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in the informational text.

Which portrait(s) are your favorite? Why?

## After Reading

Talk about your favorite part of the book.

This book reminds me of...

What are the themes of this book? ([See Related Children's Literature](#))

Make a personal connection to an important feeling in the book. Tell about a time in your own life when you have had the same feeling.

Which part of the book was most important? Use information from the story to explain why you chose that part.

Which part of the book was most interesting to you? Why?

What two questions would you like to ask the author that were not answered in this text?

Identify the people in the portraits. (Examples: Dr. King, Mother Teresa)

CAROLYN  
in the  
news

Mends Top Local Artist

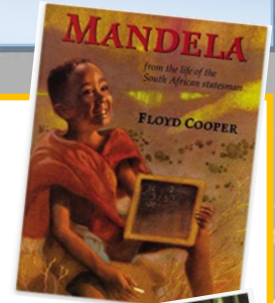
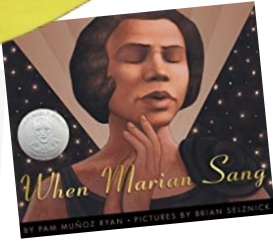
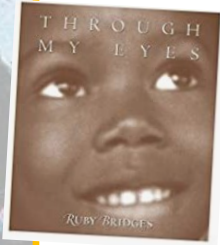
Portrait Of  
An Artist  
Talent Of Artist Is  
Viewed As Gift



Mends' Art Focuses  
On African Heritage

CAROLYN'S  
ART  
STUDENTS  
1984

# Activities



**Read Biographies and Autobiographies**  
[Top 5 Reasons to Share Biographies with Students](#)  
[Read a portrait as a biography](#)  
[What is a biography?](#)

## Write a Book Review

Write a positive review with the online bookseller. (Thank you!)

## Create a Book Trailer

Make and share a "book trailer" or video advertisement about this book.

## Theatre

Dramatize the book or orally interpret it, consider characters and plot structure.

## Presenting

Create a speech/presentation about a famous portrait or artist, including visual aids.

## Dance

What dance(s) might you be inspired to create from this reading?

## Music

What music could you make or a song might you select that relates to the book's theme?

## Visual Arts - Self-Portraits and Portraits

Draw, paint, or sculpt your own portrait or that of someone who means a lot to you.

[Exploring Perceptions About Identity Through Self-Portraits](#)

[The Skin You Live In](#) by Michael Tyler (Kindergarten example)

[What Isabella Wanted: Isabella Gardner Builds a Museum](#)

[Making Portraits Personal with Guest Contributor John Parra](#)

[Exploring Pastels](#) with [Christin Congdon](#)

Watch a portrait being made! [Soft Pastel Portrait](#)

Use [Claudio Zavala Jr.'s](#) free Adobe Spark portrait or character trait [template](#)

## Virtual Tour an Art Museum or Art Gallery

[20 Famous Art Museums You Can Visit from Your Living Room](#)

[50 Art Museums With Virtual Tours](#)

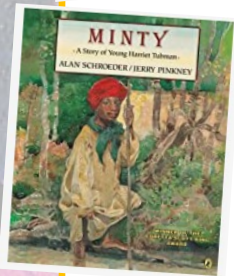
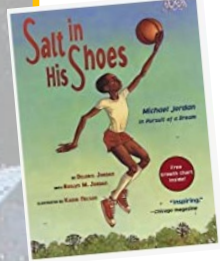
[31 free 360 virtual tour of the best art museums in the world](#)

## Primary Sources and Arts Integration

[Storytelling Through Art with Bisa Butler and Dr. Gholdy Muhammad](#)

[Art as Anchor Texts](#) by Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

[Strategies for integrating the arts](#)



CAROLYN'S  
Artwork

Who  
How  
What  
When  
Where  
Why

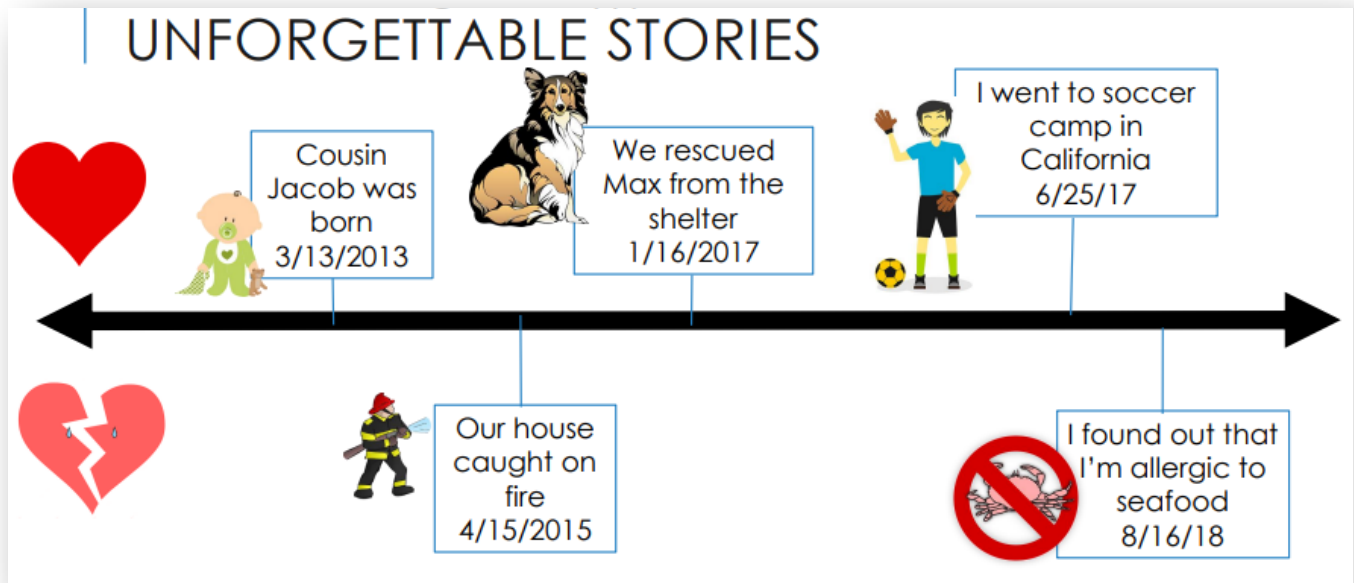
# Activities

## Emotions Graph or Timeline

Sequence the significant events or milestones that happened in your life or someone you researched. Place the events and dates on an emotions line graph. The x-axis is time or date and y-axis is intensity or emotion.

Example: [Sarah Birgé](#)

Example: [Prophet Muhammad](#)



- ♥ Heartwarming - Happy life events or celebrations
- ♥ Broken Heart - Sad or emotionally challenging life events ([Printable](#))

**The New York Times**  
[What's Going On in This Picture](#) ([Introduction](#))

**Wonderopolis.org - Wonder of the Day**  
[What Makes Art Priceless?](#)  
[Can Writing Be Art?](#)  
[Who Was Mona Lisa?](#)



Draw with pastels or sidewalk chalk today!

# Activities

Briefly summarize a news article or informational text.

## NEWSPAPER

No. 1/2005



### Strategy for writing

Tell **what** happened.

Tell **who** was involved (the most important person or people).

Tell **when** and **where** the event took place.

Tell **why** or **how** it happened (one or two reasons).

## Related Children's Literature

Hold onto special memories:

What is the theme of this story?

(The theme is what we learn as readers.)

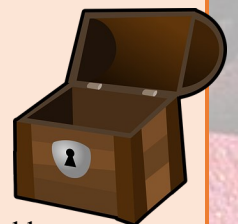
### The people in our lives



- *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros
- *Knots on a Counting Rope* by John Archambault
- *Momma, Where Are You From?* by Marie Bradley
- *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.* by Christine King Farris
- *My Great Aunt Arizona* by Gloria Houston
- *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs* by Tomie dePaola
- *Talkin' about Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman* by Nikki Grimes
- *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
- *The Piano Man* by Debbie Chocolate
- *The Wednesday Surprise* by Eve Bunting

### The special places and things in our life

- *All the Places to Love* by Patricia MacLachlan
- *Bigmama's* by Donald Crews
- *Hairs (Pelitos)* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Ma Dear's Aprons* by Patricia McKissack
- *Snapshots from the Wedding* by Gary Soto
- *Something to Remember Me By* by Susan Bosak
- *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco
- *The Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland
- *The Memory Coat* by Elvira Woodruff
- *The Memory String* by Eve Bunting
- *What You Know First* by Patricia MacLachlan
- *When I Was Little* by Jamie Lee Curtis
- *When I Was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant



# Related Picture Books - The Arts

*Aaron Slater, Illustrator*  
by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts

*Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas*  
by Jeanne Walker Harvey

*Art from Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter*  
by Kathy Whitehead

*Beautiful Shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring*  
by Nancy Churmin

*Growing an Artist*  
by John Parra

*It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way*  
by Kyo Maclear

*Me & Mama*  
by Cozbi A. Cabrera

*Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment*  
by Parker Curry and Jessica Curry

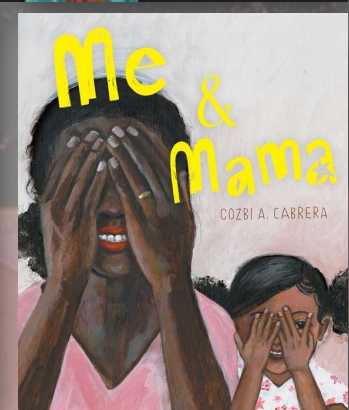
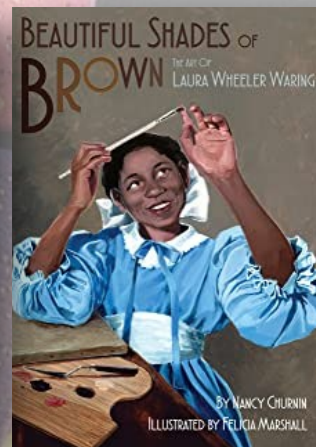
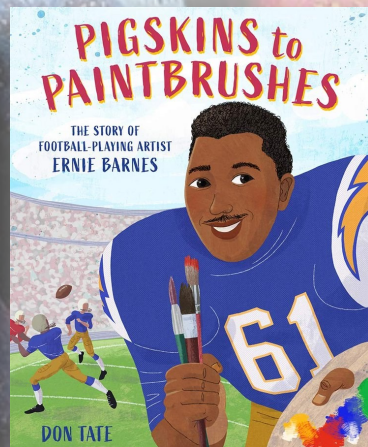
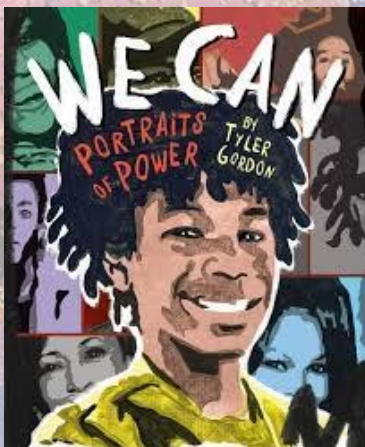
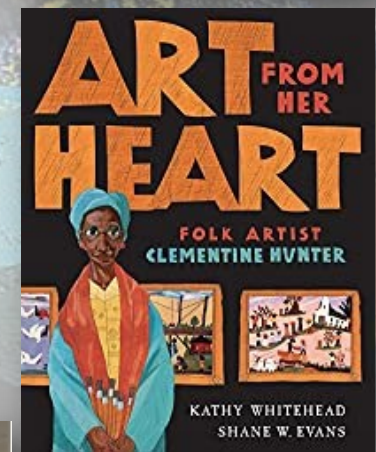
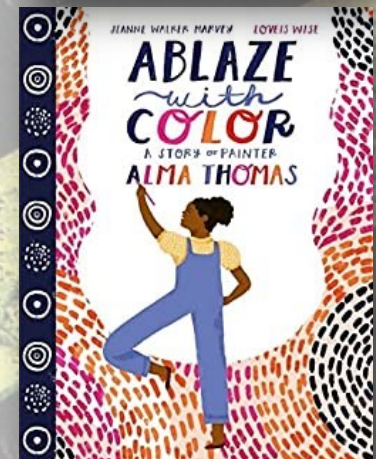
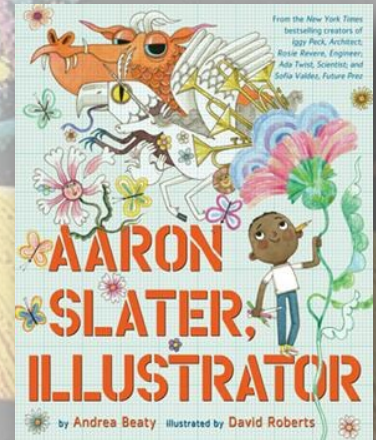
*Pigskins to Paintbrushes: The Story of Football-Playing Artist Ernie Barnes*  
by Don Tate

*Pocket Full of Colors: The Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney Artist Extraordinaire* by Amy Guglielmo

*Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*  
by Javaka Steptoe

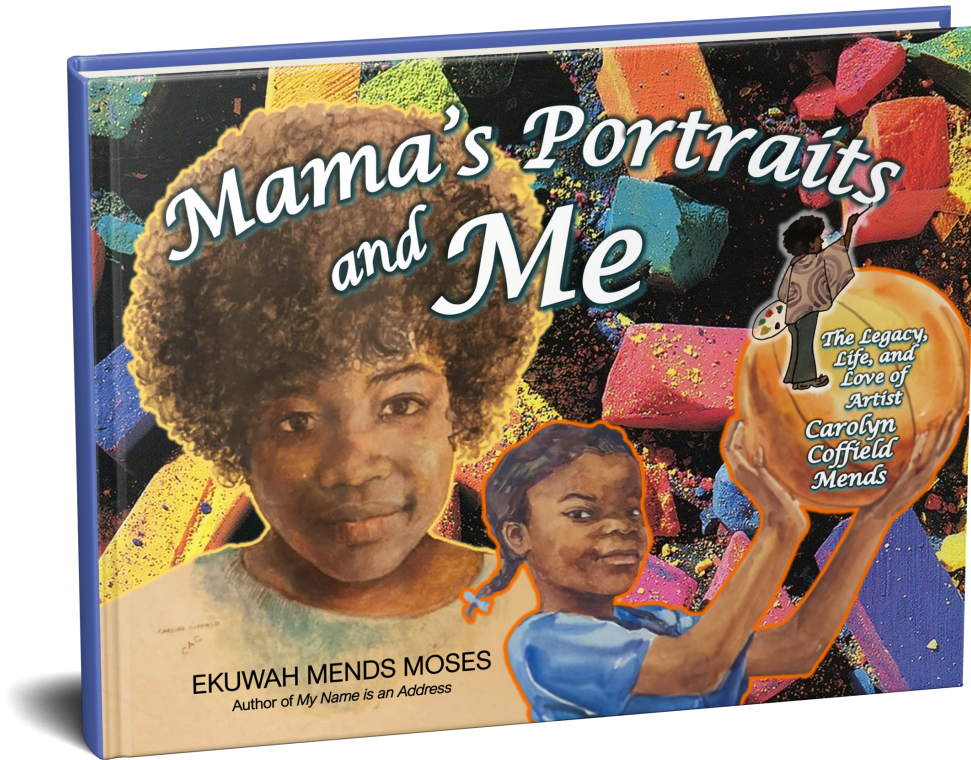
*The Met Faith Ringgold: Narrating the World in Pattern and Color (What the Artist Saw)* by Sharma Jackson

*We Can: Portraits of Power*  
by Tyler Gordon



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Based on the title and front cover of the book, *Mama's Portraits and Me: The Legacy, Life, and Love of Artist Carolyn Coffield Mends*, what predictions can you make about this biography? Label the details that help you make your prediction.



Explain your prediction based on the title and front cover of the book. Use the labels you created to support your answer.

---

---

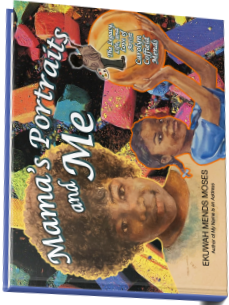
---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





# Connect with Ekuwah! Share... Like... Follow... Comment...



# Thank You

Ekuwah Mends Moses is the youngest daughter of Albion Mends III and the late Carolyn Coffield Mends (January 3, 1951 – July 13, 2017). She currently teaches and writes in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ekuwah enjoys traveling and spending quality time with her family. This is her second nonfiction picture book of her family's history. Contact her for inquiries about Carolyn's artwork. Follow her for more family stories and authentic compilations. Visit the website for a free teaching guide and related academic standards.

ekuwah.com



@Ekuwah



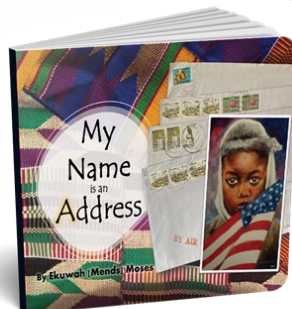
@ekuwah\_m



Ekuwah Mends Moses, Author



## #MamasPortraits



\_\_\_\_ Also available \_\_\_\_

### *My Name is an Address*

By Ekuwah Mends Moses

ART  
FRIENDS

#### Where are my friends?

I'd like to see how you use these ideas and gather more related resources! If you're able, please share photos and links with me on social media or send me an email. I may add your examples to my [website](http://www.ekuwah.com) or share them on social media.



[ekuwah@gmail.com](mailto:ekuwah@gmail.com)

#MamasPortraits



ekuwah.com