

Harlem Renaissance

Responding to Art

Today's project: Write a review of a work of art.

Background: You've already looked at some artwork of the Harlem Renaissance and have practiced identifying the themes shown in certain pieces. Now, you're going to go one step further and actually discuss whether or not you think the artist was successful in conveying the themes. This is similar to your reader response to the memoir excerpt by Richard Wright, except that instead of looking at the actions of his mother, you'll be looking at the 'actions' of the artist—how he formed his image on paper.

Tasks:

- Sit at a table with a folder on it.
- Take out the artwork from your folder and make sure everyone has one piece of art.
- If each person cannot have his own piece of art, please share with the person next to you.
- Review your piece of art. What does the artist show? What are the themes conveyed? What do you think the most important theme conveyed is? Use your notes if you do not remember the themes.
- Now you should start to 'pick apart' your piece of art using the handout "Label It". See the example for help.
- Next, pick the five parts of your piece of art that stand out the most. List these in the first column of the chart in this packet.
- Next, fill out the chart in this packet—it is similar to the one on Richard's mother from last class.
- Turn your chart over, and create your artwork response!