

Expanding the Visual

Objectives:

SWBAT take a visual and create a multi-faceted sensory image in writing

Materials:

Flach, Tim. Dogs. New York: Abrams, 2010.

Dorthea Lange print, Migrant Mother

Van Allsburg, Chris. The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

– portfolio set

Graphic Organizer (follows)

Standards: Subject area 1: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

1.4 Types of Writing

1.7 Characteristics and Functions of the English Language

Audience: Grades 5-8, adaptable to any grade

Anticipatory set: We have practiced looking at and describing ONLY WHAT YOU SEE! Today, we are going to look beyond the visual and share some of what we do not see, but what may, indeed, be there. Take a look at some of these photos (from book DOGS) and share with a partner what some of your other senses might be experiencing. Use the photo of the wet dog and the two page spread of the boxer. Have students share what other senses might be engaged beyond the boundaries of the picture.

Procedure:

- Do some warm-up and have students practice on graphic organizer with Dorthea Lange image
- Read the intro piece of The Mysteries of Harris Burdick
- Have students divide up into teams of two
- Hand each team a poster
- Have teams find a spot with their poster and graphic organizer and spend 5-7 minutes doing some imagining (visualizing) about the poster and filling in their individual graphic organizer
- Stop teams, have them turn papers over and start free-writing the beginning of a story based on their poster.

Closure:

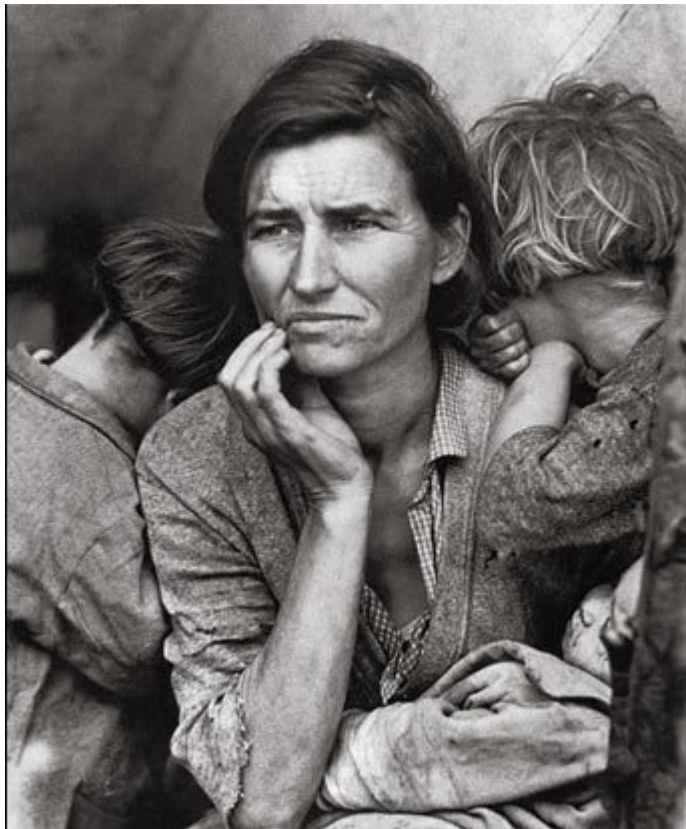
Stop students with 5 minutes remaining and have teams share story starters with each other. Invite several teams to share with class.

Differentiation:

Students will fill out graphic organizer as they are able. Teacher will set up teams where appropriate and work with students who have difficulty imagining in order to “prime the pump”.



Flach, Tim



Lange, Dorothea

Works Cited

Flach, Tim. *Dogs*. New York: Abrams, 2010. Print.

Lange, Dorothea. *Migrant Mother*. 1936. Black-and-white photograph. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Van Allsburg, Chris. *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick (Portfolio Edition)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996. N. pag. Print.