

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text: **The Dove (collage) by Romare Bearden**

Ideas, Values: Art, Experience, Family, Memory & Imagination

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

Work together as a family (plus friends) to assemble a puzzle that is challenging but also appropriate to the youngest member of the group. As you work discuss what sorts of elements would go into a puzzle that represented your family’s life right now (images, words, objects, etc.) and make a list of those elements on a handy sheet of paper.

1st Read:

Display a large version of Romare Bearden’s collage titled “The Dove” for a few days prior to the discussion, either with a print or by leaving it up on a screen. Allow family members to discuss and write about various aspects of the painting as time permits.

Vocabulary:

Discuss with family members any vocabulary that they will need to interpret the collage. Consider including some or all of the elements of art: **line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space—as well as *collage.***

2nd Read:

Distribute smaller prints of the collage, one to each pair of participants (perhaps pair an adult with a child). Have them use a ruler and pencil to bisect the image both vertically and horizontally. Where the lines cross will, of course, be the middle of the image. Have the group share at least one important detail that they notice from each quadrant.

Pre-Seminar Process:

* Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“A Paideia seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

* Describe what you want to accomplish.
* Set a Family Goal.
* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Seminar Questions:

* Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):
  + Romare Bearden didn’t give this work a title until very late in its creation; what do you think would have been a good title for it? (Don’t share your ‘*why*’ until after everyone has had a chance to answer.) Parents, have younger kids share first if they feel comfortable and advance by age.
* What element(s) in the collage make that a good title? (anyone can share)
* Core (Analyze textual details):
* Why do you think Bearden titled this work “The Dove”?
* Of the many elements in this collage, which one is most interesting to you? Why?
* Why do you think Bearden chose to include the non-human elements in his collage (bird, dog, cat)? What role do they play?
* What role does color play in the overall design of the collage?
* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
* If you were going to create a collage that captured the most important elements in your life right now, what elements would you include? What title might you give your collage?

Post-Seminar Process:

*“Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.”*

* Have the family do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Post Seminar Content:

* Transition to Writing:

Have participants brainstorm everything they said, heard, or thought during the seminar that they could use to design a collage that reflects their current lives.

* Family Activity:

After examining and discussing Romare Bearden’s “The Dove,” create a collage that represents the most important elements in your life right now.

Together, look back at the list of elements that you developed while putting the puzzle together during the “Big Ideas Chat.” Have each individual (adults included) list some things that they would add to that list to create a personal collage.

Have the participants first create a sketch that gives a rough idea of how they will display the elements in their collages and against what sort of background. Then assemble a wide variety of materials and have each member of the family (with friends) create their collages. Display and discuss.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/36572>