

## Fifth Grade Portfolio Letter

Throughout the year, 5th graders have been considering how art can be a primary source for history? Looking closely at different works of art, students considered what the artists were trying to say through their work. In their analysis, students were conscious of the fact that attitudes change throughout history. They used their knowledge of the time period when the artwork was created to consider how people might have understood it differently then.

This semester, as part of their study of American history from the Civil War through the struggle for Civil Rights, student took an in-depth look at the work of Winslow Homer and Jacob Lawrence.

Students learned about the term LANDSCAPE, what is included in a landscape and how landscapes can show emotion/mood. They also learned how artists create the illusion of depth and space in 2-Dimensional artwork. We discussed the various components of landscapes; FOREGROUND, MIDDLE-GROUND and BACKGROUND.

Students created their own landscape with foreground, middle ground, and background. Through their choice of materials and colors, students strove to create a feeling/mood within their artwork.

Students also created a series of canvas panels that depicted a journey or "migration" in their own lives. As they planned their paintings they considered how they would tell their story in pictures. Each artist focused on the importance of details that help the viewer understand the place, time, event or series of events that happened and the artist's relationship to the events.