

HOMEcomings

FAMILY/STUDENT Project Worksheet

* Can also be used optionally in coordination with: **LESSON PLAN: HOMEcomings** (located on this website)

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Follow the instructions below and refer to the illustration as your reference. You can also follow the convenient links on this website for further visual inspiration and resources. Ultimately art is an exploration and Bearden's art offers a very rich starting point. Do not feel intimidated, have fun with it! Use these opportunities to explore with your family their feelings about art, and discover together the art of Romare Bearden.

Student/Teacher Extension Activity:

This exercise uses the same work of art from the Albright-Knox curriculum activity and builds on it as a resource for teachers to provide deeper exploration of this topic OR it can be sent home as a parent student activity as well.

HOMEcomings

Your child has learned about a work of art by Romare Bearden called **Return of the Prodigal Son**. Ask him or her to tell you about it.

** (INSERT ILLUSTRATION)

Credit: ROMARE BEARDEN, RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, 1967. Mixed media and collage on canvas, 50 1/4 x 60". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand J. Castellani, 1981.

Bearden's work is about family, and the love and support that it provides its members. He believed that family is always welcoming, always forgiving, and always willing to help each other change their lives for the better. Bearden felt that one of the most important aspects of life and culture is ritual—the many customs, ceremonies, and beliefs that are part of everyday life and that help to bond family members together.

FAMILY/STUDENT PROJECT

1. Choose a family tradition or event that everyone enjoys—it could be a holiday, a reunion, a visit to a special place, etc.
2. Use this worksheet with your child or students to create a work of art on a blank sheet of paper, illustrating that tradition or event. He or she can use any materials or combination of materials (e.g., crayons, markers, pencils, photographs, images or words cut from magazines or newspapers, and anything else you can think of!).
3. Any other family member, student or team member who wants to can add to the artwork!

4. When the work is completed, help your child or students write a paragraph describing the activity. Each family member could add one or two sentences. Young people can also tell family stories or make up stories connected with the work of art. This can be done separately or as a build on the writing exercise to help them express their thoughts, feelings about art, family, etc.
5. You, along with family, can create a memory album of this activity and your time creating it together.
6. Your child's teacher can combine all of the pictures and paragraphs in a book that can be sent home to each family.

Credit: This worksheet is adapted from part of a packet that was published for use in the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's Looking and Learning program, a component of *ART Start*.