

Action Person Lesson Plan

Robin Russell, Art teacher Medinah Dist # 11

Grade 1 – 8 forty minute art classes

Artist – Homer – Snap the whip

Biggers – Bicycle Rider

Connection – Action people in our environment

Concepts – Parts that make bodies move, accurate size for the background

Day 1 – Let’s talk about art – Homer and Biggers

Movement activity to learn where bodies bend to create actions

Day 2 – gesture drawing, student models

Day 3 – Sculpture Game – partners

Day 4 – Cut shapes to be body parts – practice laying out action figures

Day 5 – glue down chosen actions – make cut paper clothes...

Day 6 – continue cut paper details for specific action person. Focus on accuracy of size

Day 7 and 8 – draw background focusing on depth and size proportion using pencil and crayons

In between classes I encourage students to research actions by looking in magazines and TV. Many play sports and watch sporting events, so they are most familiar with those. I ask them to bring in pictures and I ask them to identify parts that bend to make the action. For the art history component, they enjoy looking at games and activities from the past that artists have depicted. First graders like learning from games, so the freeze game is a good intro to the sculpture game. They like the student model thing as they learn how artists get it right by looking and learning. They also love hands on, so I use manikins as well as make paper pieces to manipulate to teach them about things that are in front of or behind other things. Near the end of the unit, we share the action person we made and a short description of what is going on. Then we pass the paper to a partner and ask what might happen next. That is a really fun way to conclude the unit.

