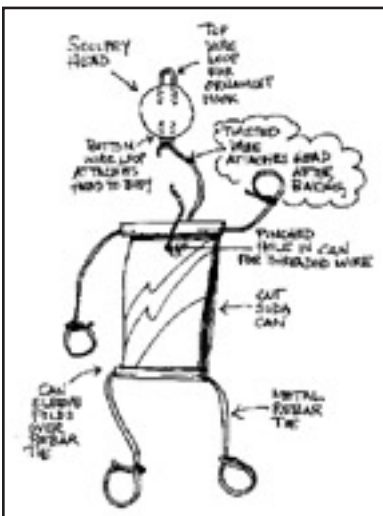


Portraits can also show who we wish to be. Superheroes with secret powers, alter egos, fantasy portraits have been created from our student imaginations.

2002 Trim-A-Tree “My Imaginary Self” Tin Can Ornaments



1. Have materials and tools ready and gathered.
2. Introduce the theme of this year’s ornament.

Students should create an ornament that represents their imaginary self — superheroes, alter egos, animals, or dream professions like “rock star” are all good suggestions. Encourage them to think of an imaginary name like, “Superstar” or “Stupendous Man” and to go with their imaginary self. Remind them think about details that will define character like hair style and costume.

3. MAKING THE BODY.

Slip the two rebar ties into the top and bottom ends of the pre-cut can and fold over can to secure tie in place. (You may choose to do this step ahead of time for younger children.) Create a pose for the ornament by bending the arms and legs to suggest gestures and attitude.

4. MAKING THE HEAD.

Have the kids pick a color and work the Sculpey to soften it before shaping. Remind them to start by rolling a ball. Working on the foil, the clay can be formed by pinching or adding additional pieces of clay. Seed beads should be pressed in for eyes. Toothpicks can be used to create mouths, nostrils and other details. Hair can be made by shaping Sculpey coils, using a garlic press, or by pushing in wire (coils can be formed by wrapping wire around a pencil) or metal scraps.

*****Important: Before the heads are baked, wire loops should be inserted into the top and bottom of the head.** Writing the child’s name on the piece of foil that they are working on and set the finished head aside on a tray for later baking.

5. DECORATE THE BODY.

Using metal paint, paint the metal legs and arms. The body can also be painted. Holes can be made by puncturing the can with a pushpin (into corkboard). Washers and beads can also be attached to the body by threading wire through the holes. Capes and skirts can be made by gluing pom tissue onto the body. Student can also add a metal banner to the ornament with their imaginary name written in permanent marker. A wire should be threaded through the top hole to attach the head after baking (leave an 1” extra length).

6. Be sure artists put their name, the year and their room # on the backside with a Sharpie.

Julia Morgan at Rooftop Fall 2002 “House on Mango Street”

Line of Inquiry: How are cultural and family dynamics portrayed in the Word for Word production of Sandra Cisneros’s “House on Mango Street”?

Guiding Questions:

- What is family?
(Naming and Nicknames)
- What is the importance of ‘home’ in these stories?
- What is culture?
- How do we bridge cultures?
- How do we bridge families?

