

Ms. Callaway's fourth grade class was engaged in a unit of study on immigration.

## Culture and Ancestry Collages

To begin the session, the students were presented with a still life of a variety of objects – a paper fan, embroidered shoes, a teapot, woodcarving of an animal, a mask, books, printed cloth, and a gumball machine. The students were not told what the objects were meant to represent, but were asked to share what they saw. The students stated their own observations about the grouping and came to discover that the objects in the still life, carried meaning and information about a variety of cultures and time periods.

Romare Bearden's paintings viewed and discussed by students

"Watching the Good Trains Go By"

"The Conversation"

"The Prodigal Son"



The collage art of Romare Bearden often depicts stories and images specific to his African American culture in a contemporary way, through his use of found materials and images. Students were presented with a variety of (materials, fabrics, papers, found objects) and asked to create ancestral collages.

4th Grade Student Examples



PTA Reflections Contest Grades 3-5 State Finalist



PTA Reflections Contest Honorable Mention



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?