

Miller South School for the Visual & Performing Arts
Akron, Ohio
Middle School
Susan Yingling, art teacher

Family Story Shopping Bags

I did two assignments this year based on Aminah's work and Website. I took the Story Lesson from the Teach section of the Website and had the students transfer the images onto shopping bags so the students could carry the stories with them wherever they go. My seventh graders told stories about their parents and grandparents who were honored to see their stories documented in this creative format.



Unwritten Love Letters

The second lesson was research-driven and based on the Unwritten Love Letter lesson plan in the Teach section of the Aminah's World Website. Each eighth-grade student had to find a person or event that exemplified the strength and roots of the civil rights movement. They brought in old envelopes (I bought old stamps from EBay and buttons at tag sales.) and the students wrote unwritten thank you notes to the person they had selected to research. We were working on this about the time of Obama's inauguration so students did a second envelope to the President with hopes for the future. This was a great example of *Sankofa*, remembering the past in order to move forward.



