

DESIGNING FOR HISTORICAL OR LITERARY CHARACTERS

Overview

Students will design a costume or garment for a historical or literary character.

National Standards

- VA:Cn10.1.6a Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in artmaking.
- VA:Cn11.1.6a Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

Materials/Works of Art

- Text or primary sources featuring literary or historical characters
- Still images and video of artist Shawn Baron Pinckney and his work

Discussion

Throughout history and in the realm of theatre or cinema, clothing and accessories are one of the ways people or characters display aspects of their identity. Shawn Baron Pinckney creates custom garments using symbolic details and materials that are inspired by historic figures and events. Use the following questions to discuss the work of Shawn Baron Pinckney with your students:

- How do our clothes or accessories illustrate aspects of our personal identity?
- What symbolic materials does Shawn Baron Pinckney use in his work? How do the materials reflect the history of his subjects?
- What symbolic garments or accessories do you associate with iconic literary or historical figures?



Activities

- Create a list of details or vocabulary that are used to describe the clothing and characteristics of a historical or fictional figure.
- Illustrate the clothing or costume of a literary character or historical figure based on their description in a text passage. Think about details from the text that will help you create your illustration.

Reflection

- How do clothes or accessories reflect the materials and technology of a time period?
- How do visual and literary symbols convey meaning in a text or a work of art?

Extension

Do the clothes really make the man? Research this historic quote and concept to discover the impact of fashion through different time periods.

View the portfolios of other costume and fashion designers including Ruth E. Carter, Coco Chanel, Elizabeth Keckley, and Thomas Burberry.

Explore costumes and garments from museum collections online:

- The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
- The Costume Institute
- The Museum at FIT
- The Chicago History Museum

