

# LOOKING TO LEARN

August 2021



This week we looked at *La Mujer Moderna* by Helen Criales, from our exhibition *Amplify*, and read the book *Saturday*, by Oge Mora, with Lynn Jacobs from the Virginia Beach Public Library. For our making activity, caretakers and kiddos worked together to make paper bag puppets. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

**EMPATHY AND IMAGINATION:** Imagining someone else's point of view can help us to better understand and embrace our differences. Creating a character, with its own personality, likes and dislikes, allows us to practice a skill called empathy—the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.



## LA MUJER MODERNA BY HELEN CRIALES

Artist Helen Criales creates stories through photographs using clothing and objects that belong to her family. Let's look closely at the work of art and ask some questions:

- What do you see? Make a visual inventory of the things you notice in the artwork.
- What do you think the artwork is about? Who is this person? What do their clothes say about them?
- Criales is inspired by some of the traditions of her Bolivian heritage. She is especially interested the roles women and men typically play in the family. Men are often looked to for wisdom, while women are expected to be a source of nurture and caretaking.
- Why do you think the artist chose to wear her grandfather's clothes?
- How do your choices and actions affect your family?

*La Mujer Moderna* by Helen Criales, 2017. Photograph. Courtesy of the artist.

## SATURDAY BY OGE MORA

This book is about the importance of spending time with our loved ones. Watch a read aloud of *Saturday* from OUSD Libraries [here](#).

- What are some things Ava and her mother usually do together on Saturdays, and why are Saturdays so special?
- What are some things that went wrong on this particular Saturday?
- How did Ava handle being disappointed when their plans didn't work out? Has this ever happened to you?
- Why was Saturday still special and splendid to Ava?
- Do you have any special traditions with your loved ones?



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**ART MAKING ACTIVITY:** For this activity, we are going to imagine our own puppets with unique feelings and personalities. In the story, we saw how Ava and her mom were kind to each other even when things didn't go their way. They were both able to imagine how the other was feeling, and that helped them to be more caring. Lets practice imagining the feelings of a character we create!

## SUPPLY LIST:

- Paper lunch bag
- Glue stick, glue dots or a glue gun
- Construction Paper, decorative paper
- Scissors
- Feathers, Pom Poms, Googly Eyes
- Fabric Scraps, Foam
- Crayons, Markers

## INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Lets make a mouth so that our puppet can talk about their feelings. Stick your hand inside the paper bag and practice opening and closing your puppet's mouth. Cut out and glue their lips and tongue!
2. Now let's add some other face features. Get creative with the materials that you have to add eyes, ears, a nose, and hair. If you are using paper, a glue stick works great. Other soft materials attach better with glue dots or a glue gun. Make sure to press down after you glue something.
3. Does your puppet feel happy or angry? Are they silly or serious? The choices you make to create your puppet can really change the way that people see it! After you have finished your puppet's face, it is time to add arms. Can you make your puppet's body language match its expression?
4. Finally, it is time to give your puppet an outfit! Think about their favorite color and what they would like to wear.
5. Now let's bring these puppets to life through play. What is your puppet's name? How old are they? What are they like? How are they feeling? What do they want to say?

