

LOOKING TO LEARN

Taking Action

This week we looked closely at *Rain Workers* by Andy Harris, an artwork from our current exhibition *Nourish*, read *What Matters* by Alison Hughes and made an upcycled shopping bag. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

TAKING ACTION: To “nourish” means to provide for the growth, health and wellbeing of something. It is a verb, meaning that it requires action. What are some ways we could “nourish” our neighborhoods, communities, or the environment? Have you ever done volunteer work? What did you do? Who did it help?



RAIN WORKERS BY ANDY HARRIS

The artist wanted to celebrate acts of good stewardship in his community from volunteers that help care for our environment. Let's look closely at this work of art and ask some questions:

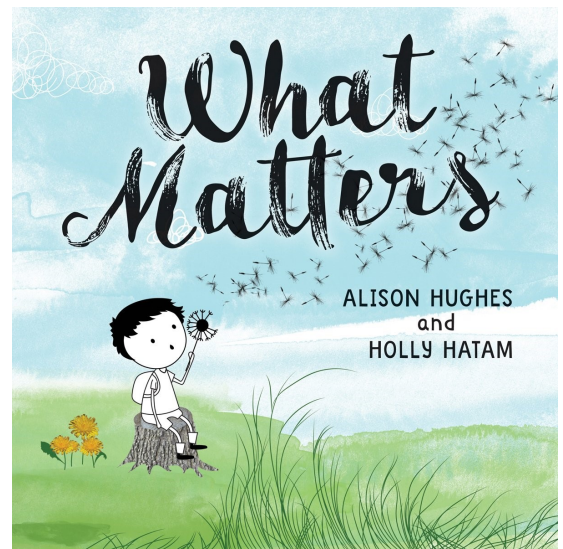
- What do you see?
- Name some details you notice.
- What is the setting of this painting? Where are they?
- What are these people doing? Are they working as a team or separately?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

Rain Workers by Andy Harris, 2020. Painted paper collage on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

WHAT MATTERS BY ALISON HUGHES

This book is about how a small action to help clean up the park made a big difference to the environment and community. Watch a read aloud of *What Matters* from Montessori Minute by NSMS [here](#).

- What did the boy do when he found a piece of trash in the park?
- How did his action help the plants?
- How did his action help the animals?
- What other effects could his action have had on his community?
- What is an action you could take to help your community?



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ART MAKING ACTIVITY: Upcycling means to reuse something (usually an item or items we would think of as trash) to create something more useful or more valuable. Upcycling is a way we can nourish our environment by reducing trash, by giving used items a new purpose. In this activity, we will make an upcycled shopping bag using reused materials.

SUPPLY LIST:

- A blank tee shirt
- A marker
- Scissors
- Paint
- Two pieces of paper
- Small pieces of trash like bubble wrap, cardboard, bottle caps, plastic wrap, a sponge, a broken toy, etc.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Flip your tee shirt inside-out. To make the handles for your bag, cut the sleeves off of your t-shirt. To make the opening of your shopping bag, cut a large half-circle around the neck of the tee shirt (see above). Make sure to cut through both sides of the shirt.



2. For the bottom of the bag, cut slits up from the very bottom of the shirt, about an inch apart, though both sides of fabric. You may want to use a marker to mark the length of the strips so they are even all the way across (see left).
3. Tie the slits on the front and back of your tee shirt together in a knot, all the way across the bottom of the shirt to close off the bottom. Flip your tee shirt inside-out again to hide your knots inside the bag.
4. Slide one sheet of paper between the layers of the shirt. Use the other sheet as a paint palette!



5. Stamp your pieces of upcycled trash into the paint color you wish to use, and then stamp it on to your tee shirt bag (see left). Do this with as many pieces of trash as you would like. You can print with the same piece more than once, too!



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