



LANGUAGE ARTS AND VISUAL ART

First Grade

Jasper Johns Inspired Letter Hunt

Lesson by: Molly Neves

Objectives

- Students will be able to identify capital and lowercase letters.
- Students will be able to describe the artwork of Jasper Johns.
- Students will also be able to create their own Jasper Johns inspired piece.

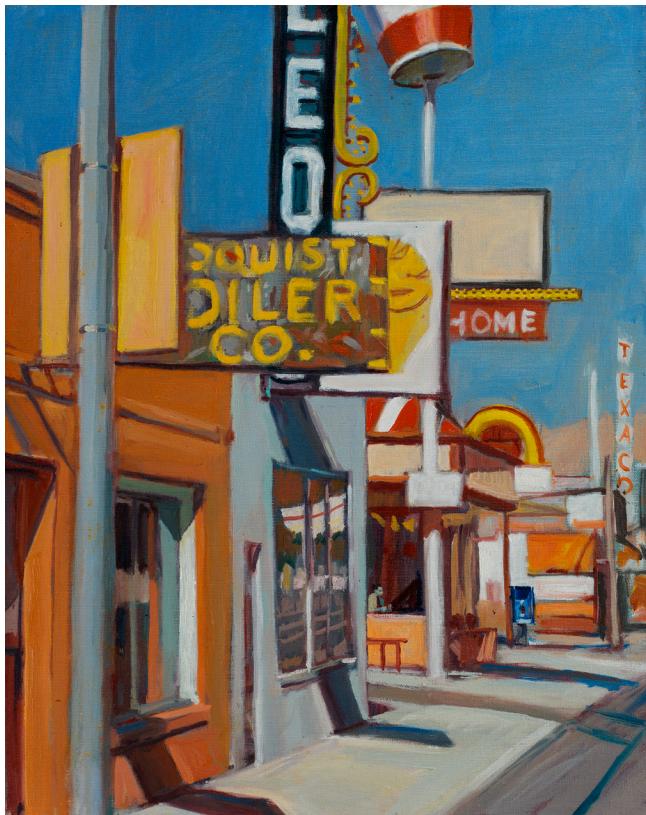
Introduction

Show the students:

State Street by Paul Davis Howard and
Big Sur Nursery by Edward D. Maryon.

Discuss the images with students.

- What do you see in these paintings?
- How did these artists use letters in their artwork?
- Can you see any capital letters in this artwork?
- Can you see and lowercase letters in this artwork?
- What types of colors did these artists use in their artwork?
- Do we see letters as we look around our neighborhood?



Paul Howard Davis, *State Street*, 1979



Edward D. Maryon, *Big Sur Nursery*, 1975

Materials

- Paul Howard Davis, *State Street*
- Edward D. Maryon, *Big Sur Nursery*
- Jasper Johns, *Alphabet*
- Viewfinders (can make out of 2"x2" cardstock with a hole in the middle)
- Scratch paper with a few lowercase and capital letters on it (prepared beforehand by the teacher)
- Drawing paper (pre-folded into 25 squares)
- Crayons
- Watercolors
- Pencils
- Pennies/Coins
- Optional: Stencils of letters

Images from the Museum

- Paul Howard Davis, *State Street*
- Edward D. Maryon, *Big Sur Nursery*

Other Images

- Jasper Johns, *Alphabet*, The Art Institute of Chicago

Utah Core Standards

Language Standard 1

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- a. Independently identify and legibly write all upper-and lowercase letters (legibility is defined as the letter being recognizable to readers in isolation from other letters in a word).

Speaking and Listening Standard 5

Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Visual Arts Objective 3

Develop and use skills to communicate ideas, information, and feelings.

- a. Recognize and express feelings in a variety of ways (e.g., draw, paint, tell stories, dance, sing).
- b. Express how colors, values, and sizes have been controlled in artworks to create mood, tell stories, or celebrate events.



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Activity

Students will participate in a “letter hunt”. Give each student a piece of paper and go outside (or in the hallways). Students can be divided into small groups or they can go individually. Have the students circle the letters on their scratch paper when they find them in their surrounding environment.

After returning from the letter hunt show them the artwork, *Alphabet* by Jasper Johns

Ask students to describe what they see in the artwork.

- Are his letters capital or lowercase?
- What colors can you see?
- Can you find where the artist hid the “I”?

Art Making

Give each student

- drawing paper (pre-folded)
- penny or coin

Have them flip the coins, if they get heads, they must make their alphabet in capital letters. If they get tails, their alphabet will be lower case.

Have students write the letters of the alphabet (or use stencils) in crayon in each of the squares. They can opt to leave out one of the letters or “hide it” as Jasper Johns did with his “I”.

When students are finished, teach them how to paint using a wet-on-wet technique. (Paint the paper with plain water first, and then paint with watercolors on top of the wet sections). Let dry.

Variations

- Students can write their letters and omit the watercolor piece.
- Students can also cut their papers and fold their alphabet into a small book.
- Students can create their alphabet out of only the letters they found outside the classroom.



Jasper Johns, *Alphabet*, 1959, The Art Institute of Chicago

Extensions

The same activity can be done with Jasper Johns's Numbers.

Formative Assessment

As students are working, check to make sure that each has written their letters in capital or lowercase correctly.

Summative Assessment

Students are finished when their alphabet is completed and their paper is fully painted.

Sources

Jasper Johns Alphabet

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/229353>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasper_Johns

*Lesson inspired by similar lessons on artprojectsforkids.org and artasticartists.blogspot.com

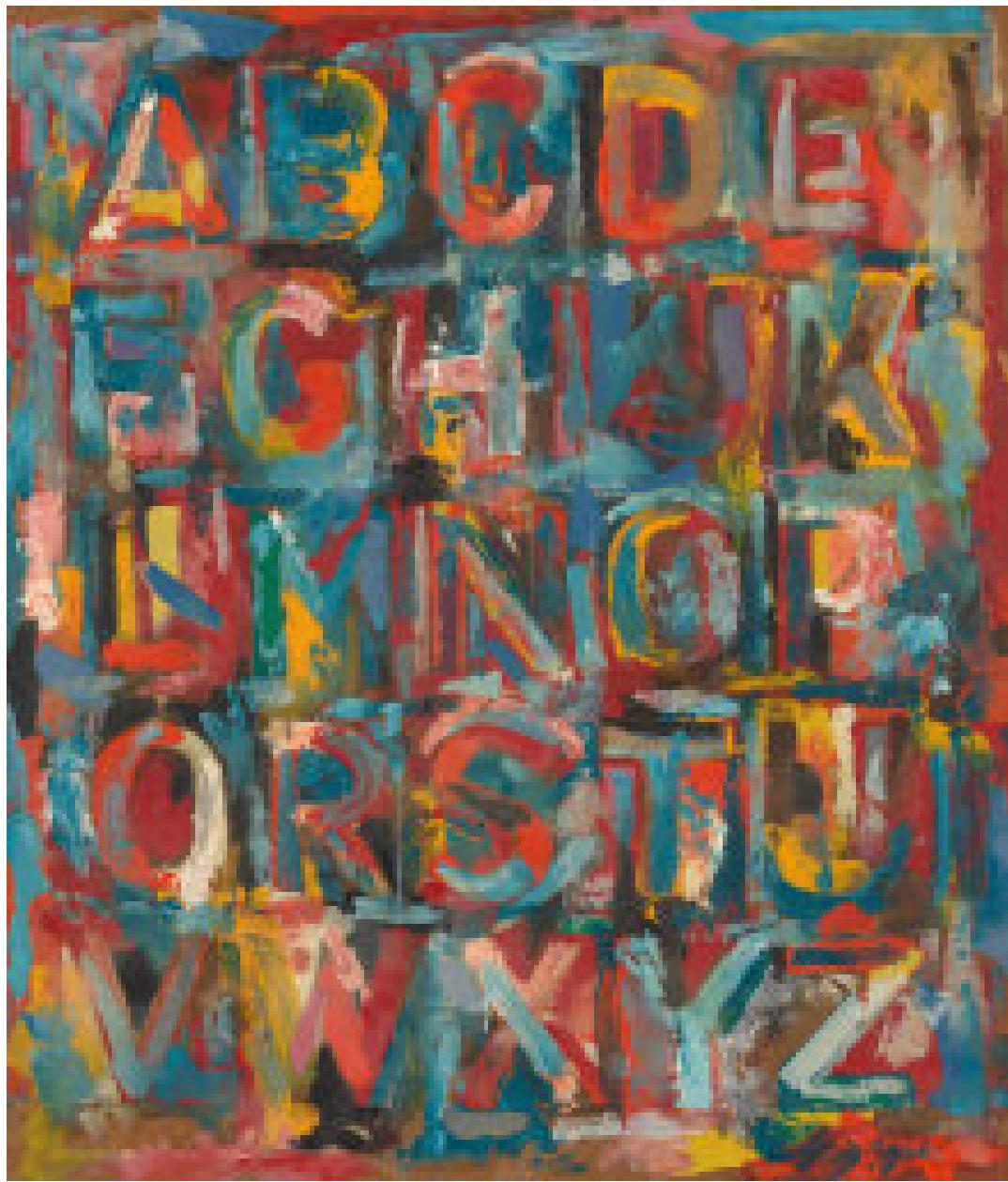
Images



Edward D. Maryon, *Big Sur Nursery*, 1975



Paul Howard Davis, *State Street*, 1979



Jasper Johns, *Alphabet*, 1959, The Art Institute of Chicago