

Milagros

Symbolism in Images

Grades 6-8

Objective

Students will create a collage of images that expresses what's important to them in their own lives.

Discussion

Discuss what symbolism is and how people use symbols to communicate meanings. For example, a wedding ring represents marriage, a flag represents a country, and a logo represents a company. Ask students to think about the way they use symbols in daily life and to share these observations.

Discuss the use of Milagros as devotional art and the symbolism related to them. See resource page: [The Milagro Cross](#)

Divide students into groups to discuss what symbols they might use to represent themselves, their families, their pets, their schools, their hobbies, sports, or other things that are important to them. What images could you use to represent the intangibles like love, hope, faith, etc...Have each group make a list to share with the whole class.

Procedure

Students will create a collage of images and photographs that represent the things in life they value. Once they are completed, have students explain the meaning of their design. These instructions will direct students to complete the project by hand. Below are a couple of websites students can use to create their collage digitally.

1. Have students choose a cardstock color for their collage.
2. They can leave the page full sized or trim it into a shape such as a heart or an oval.
3. Encourage students to pick a word to represent their collage such as family, friendship, hope, or love. All of the images that they choose for their collage will represent the theme word .
4. Have students write their theme word on the paper and decorate as they see fit with pencils, colored pencils, and markers.
5. Let students pick photographs or images that represent their theme word from their own collection, from magazines, or by drawing them.
6. Have students glue the images to their collage. They can trim down the edges of the photographs or other images if they like.
7. Decorate the collage.

Create a collage digitally by using internet programs such as Smilebox (which will charge for downloading the finish product) or Adobe Spark. An example of a digital collage using Adobe Spark is included in this lesson plan.

Materials Needed:

- 11x17 cardstock or another presentation sized paper in various colors
- Pencils
- Photographs
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Markers and colored pencils
- Glue