



## Cloth Stories Lesson Plan: Stories of Perseverance

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*In this unit there are many enduring understandings that are transferable, have a lasting value beyond the classroom and are applicable for grades 2-12.*

### Purpose

- To implement a multicultural curriculum
- To integrate literacy components: oral interviews, documentation of stories through words or drawings, reading of biographies and creation of stories told through images of cloth
- To involve local community members
- To learn the art of appliqué (sewing)

### Content Standards: Virginia Standards of Learning

#### 3.4 Appreciating Literature

Performance level: The student appreciates literature through a variety of experiences with a wide range of reading materials.

#### 3.13 Identifying Audience for Effective Communication

The student develops an understanding of the importance of audience for oral and written communication.

#### The Arts: Visual Communication and Production

3.2 The student will use various art processes and techniques to produce works of art.

3.9 The student will identify and use foreground, middle ground and background in two-dimensional works of art.

### Enduring Understandings

#### Students will understand that...

- Published biographies can tell how individuals have persevered
- Fiction and non-fiction texts can share a common thread of perseverance
- It takes determination and effort to persevere even in the face of hardship
- Oral histories can be turned into a written story, poetry or a work of art
- Stories come from one's imagination, from personal experiences and/or from research
- Many cultures record stories through the use of cloth

### Leaving Pakistan

My cloth story is about my neighbor who was pushed out. They had to leave their home because they had no money. The soldiers told them to get out of the house before 11pm because they couldn't pay the money. It made me feel sad because they were poor and they had to leave their home.

## Essential Questions

What is a biography?

In what ways can a fiction and non-fiction text be alike?

What are some examples of situations when you or someone you know (or studied) didn't give up?

How can a family story be turned into a published story, poetry or a work of art?

Where do stories come from?

How can you turn a story into a work of art?

### Students will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics of a biography.
- Explain the goal of the individual in the biography and how she/he accomplished his/her goal.
- Identify the theme of perseverance in fiction and non-fiction text.
- Interview a family member about a time when he/she did not give up or quit.
- Turn the story of perseverance into a story board.
- Select the important part of your family story and turn it into a cloth story.



My mom left Mexico because she wanted a better life for us. She brought us to the United States when I was six years old. I didn't want to go to school because I didn't know how to speak English and I didn't know anyone. I was sad, mad and afraid. *My family was sad because we had to leave our country, but we didn't give up hope.*

## Performance Task

You will create a work of art based on a family story of perseverance. You will interview family members about times they did not give up. You will select one of the stories and draw out the sequence of the story. You will choose the most important part of the story and draw the main character and the setting. In your drawing you will consider foreground, middle-ground and background. You will choose a background color and numerous pieces of fabric for your project. You will sew the visual parts of the story to the background color. You will write a mini biography of the character you have chosen. In addition, you will include your artist statement which contains the title of your cloth story; a brief summary of the piece; and a mini-autobiography of yourself. You will display your piece of work and documentation in a student generated museum.



## Resources

### Picture books and DVDs

[Fabric of Survival](http://www.artandremembrance.org) DVD from [www.artandremembrance.org](http://www.artandremembrance.org)  
[Memories of Survival](#) by Esther Nisenthal Krinitz and Bernice Steinhardt  
[Dia's Cloth Story](#) by Dia Cha  
[Whispering Cloth](#) by Pegi Diez Shea  
[Something from Nothing](#) by Phoebe Gilman  
[City Green](#) by DyAnne DiSalva-Ryan  
[Something Beautiful](#) by Sharon Dennis Wyett  
[Rivers and Tides](#): DVD on Andy Goldsworthy & his work  
[Mary had a Little Lamb](#) by Salley Mavor

### Poetry

[Mother to Son](#) by Langston Hughes

### Biographies

[Wilma Unlimited](#) by Kathleen Krull  
[Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream](#) by Deloris Jordan  
[A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver](#) by Alike  
[Snowflake Bentley](#) by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

