

Mexican-style Papel Picado Illustrations

8th Grade Multicultural Integrated Language Arts/Art Class
Heritage Middle School, Westerville OH November 2003

Students were reading John Steinbeck's novel, "The Pearl", based on an ancient Mexican legend. In their language arts class they were given a scene from the novel, and asked to write a narrative poem of the dramatic moment, evoking the mood and cultural rhythms of the novel.



Illustration by Carmen Lomas Garza



Final illustrations with accompanying poems were displayed in the media center windows, and glowed like stained glass windows!

In art class, students were introduced to the Mexican cut paper art of papel picado, first trying their hand at traditional banner patterns. In later sessions students were introduced to the papel picado illustrations of Mexican-American artist Carmen Lomas Garza. Students were then asked to illustrate their narrative poems using the papel picado technique.

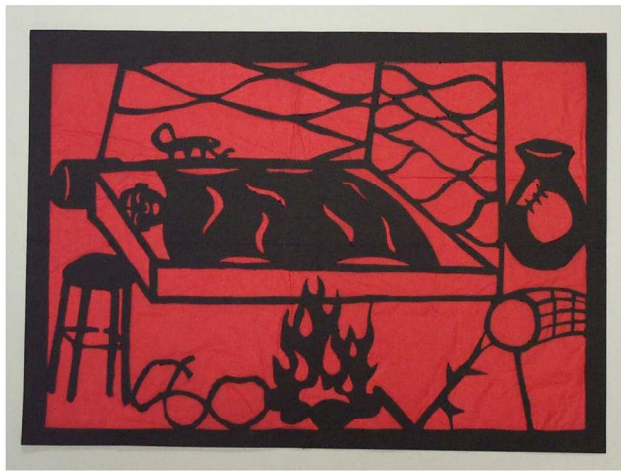


Hyla Skudder -- Guest Artist



Students cut their illustrations out of 12" x 18" black construction paper. Colored tissue papers were glued behind for a stained glass effect.

More Papel Picado Illustrations From "The Pearl"



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Guest Artist



The use of background "connectors" throughout the illustration was very important to hold the paper together and give it a strong sense of design.