



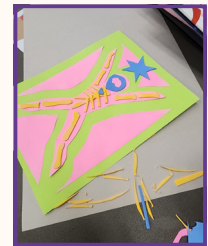
Amplifying the Arts

Volume 36, April 2025



ARTS PLUS INTEGRATION LESSONS

During the Covid shutdown, Louisa Higgins, RCOE Arts Administrator and Karen Riley, Artist, began to write a series of lessons based on children's literature books. After they completed a few lessons, they started having zoom-based meetings where teachers learned about the featured book and created an art project based on materials that were sent out in a kit form.



Last year, they partnered with Barnes and Noble and presented three of the lessons at various locations in Riverside County. These in-person lessons were a huge hit and drew fifty plus participants to each session. It was wonderful to see the joy of reading and art combined!

This school year, two districts, Claremont Unified School District in Los Angeles County and Desert Sands Unified School District in Riverside County, have purchased all of the books and made the lessons available to their elementary Visual and Performing Arts and Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) teachers respectively.



We are delighted to see this use of the lessons, which we also present for Professional Development in the Arts days and at various conferences. Louisa and Karen focus on books that feature artists and/or high interest content. Many of the lessons are Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) friendly as well.

You can find the Arts Plus lessons at [Arts Plus Integrated Arts Lessons](#). We currently have sixteen free lessons available online and add more each year. We are always open to suggestions for future books that we might feature one day.

From mermaids to bird's nests, from Frida Kahlo to water protectors, we have social and emotional learning, cultural relevancy, art history, social studies, reading, and art all in one place! We invite you to download and try one of these elementary lessons today.

For more information, you can contact Louisa Higgins at lhiggins@rcoe.us (for a conference or professional development presentation) or Karen Riley at karen@scrapgallery.org (for materials or a potential classroom visit).