

JERRY PINKNEY: IMAGININGS

An Interactive Guide



An exhibition organized by Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA

Across his fifty-five-year journey as an illustrator, Jerry Pinkney has cast a warm, curious eye on our world to create images that reflect his passion for life, his love of family and community, and his deep engagement with the rich complexities of history. His award-winning illustrations have appeared in more than one hundred books. *Jerry Pinkney: Imaginings* reflects the artist's love of literature, and the process of creating meaningful visual solutions that expand and enliven a narrative.

We hope you will enjoy this guide to *Jerry Pinkney: Imaginings*, which features artworks inspired by classic and contemporary literature, and by well-loved folk tales and fairy tales. It includes looking, writing, and drawing activities to experience in the galleries and at home.

Stephanie Haboush Plunkett
Deputy Director/Chief Curator
Norman Rockwell Museum

JERRY PINKNEY: IMAGININGS

An Artist's Exploration of Images and Words



Credits:

Interactive Guide: Stephanie Haboush Plunkett and Rebecca Honig
Design: Rita Marshall Imaging: Thomas Mesquita Printing: Excelsior

Jerry Pinkney, *The Tiger Stopped and Looked at Sam*, 1996, Illustration for *Sam and the Tigers: A Retelling of Little Black Sambo* by Julius Lester; Watercolor on paper

ACTIVITIES



Jerry Pinkney, *The Last Tales of Uncle Remus*, 1994, Cover Illustration for *The Tales of Uncle Remus* as retold by Julius Lester; Watercolor and pencil on paper

ACTIVITY I *Search for Stories*

Jerry Pinkney is a storyteller who uses drawing and painting to tell stories.



If you look closely, you can find a story in each of his illustrations.

Investigate this painting. What details do you notice? What do you think the characters are doing? What might they be saying and feeling? What story do you think Jerry Pinkney is telling?

Now make up your own story about this image. Write it down here and share it with a friend or family member:

What other stories can you find in the illustrations that you see?

ACTIVITY 2 Follow the Clues

Jerry Pinkney is inspired by words. When he receives a text to illustrate, he reads the pages over and over again and jots down descriptions, details, and clues that he finds in the writing. These clues help him to decide what he will paint and how he will paint it.

Here are some of the words that inspired Jerry Pinkney's drawings. Can you find the painting he created to go with each quote?

Example:

Here is a passage from a book's text:

"...since you are such a good girl, I got a present for you. Go out to the chicken house. Any eggs that say, 'Take me' you go ahead and take."

Here is the painting that Jerry Pinkney created to illustrate the text:



Painting title: *Blanche Found All the Nests Filled with Eggs*,
Cover Illustration for *The Talking Eggs* by Robert D. San Souci

Now you try! Search for the artworks that illustrate these words.

“Rikki-tikki was just a young mongoose, and he was very pleased that he had managed to escape an attack from behind. When Teddy came running down the path, Rikki-tikki was ready to be petted.”

Painting title _____

“...John Henry broke through and met the steam drill. The boss of the steam drill was flabbergasted.”

Painting title _____

“The Old African took Bayo by the hand and walked with her down to the water. She squealed as the cold water touched her bare feet, but the Old African continued walking into the water holding her hand tightly.”

Painting title _____

“Then they sent for the Great Fixer. After much talking and examination, the bird was put together again.”

Painting title _____

“Brer Rabbit could see Brer Buzzard with the checkered flag, but he didn't see Brer Turtle come out of the woods and hide behind the post marking the finish line.”

Painting title _____

ACTIVITY 3 Connect With Animals

"I have always been fascinated by what animals might be thinking and feeling. As a young boy growing up in the city in Philadelphia, I couldn't wait for weekend visits to see my relatives who lived in the country. Being able to watch birds and other creatures up close was exciting! Since that first glimpse, I have looked for any chance I could get to study wildlife!" —Jerry Pinkney

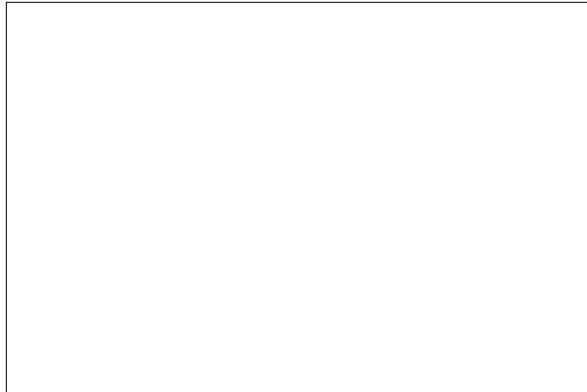


Jerry Pinkney loves animals. When he started working as an artist he wanted to show animals running free in their own habitats.

Search his paintings for animals living in these habitats:

- The Jungle
- The Forest
- The Water
- A Farm

Draw an animal that belongs in one of the habitats above.



ACTIVITY 4 Investigate Expressions



lion

Jerry Pinkney likes to show animals with expressions on their faces to help readers understand what the animals might be thinking.

What do you think each of these animals is feeling? Write an emotion below each one.

What is the lion feeling?: _____

What is the bear feeling? _____

What is the rabbit feeling? _____



bear

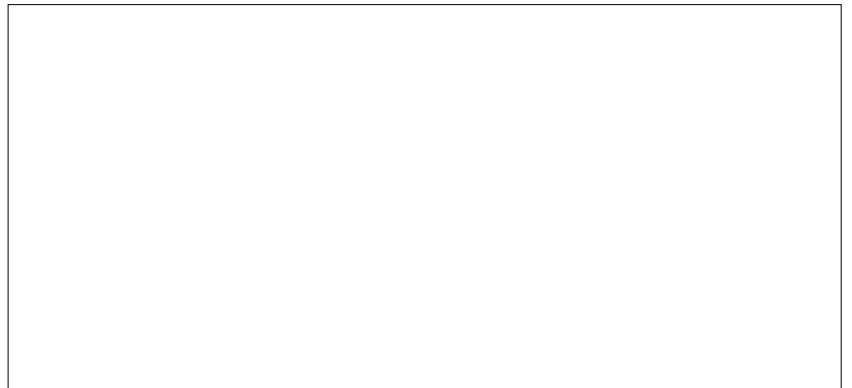
Can you find other animals in Jerry Pinkney's art?

- A Duckling A Bird
 A Whale A Snake

Change the lion's expression by creating your own drawing. Hint: A character's eyes and eyebrows tell a lot about how he/she feels.



rabbit



ACTIVITY 5 Explore Family History

Jerry Pinkney put some of his own life's history and remembrances of his family into his illustrations. When he began illustrating picturebooks, African Americans were rarely pictured. The artist wanted to create books that his children and other people of color could see themselves in.



Jerry Pinkney said:

“With family and friends having migrated to Philadelphia from the South, it is perhaps no surprise that I became well acquainted with the oral tradition of storytelling. The stories that I so fondly remember, like John Henry and The Tales of Uncle Remus, were told to me as a boy.”

Can you find any artwork that may have been inspired by these family details? How can you tell? What is the name of the artwork: _____

Jerry Pinkney said:

"My sisters all said, 'There was something different about Jerry.' From as far back as I can remember there has always been this overwhelming need to draw."

Can you find any artwork that may have been inspired by these family details?
How can you tell? What is the name of the artwork:

Do you have a special family memory? Take a moment to capture it by drawing it here.



ACTIVITY 6 **Bring Tales to Life**

Growing up, Jerry Pikney had no television or internet. For entertainment he and his parents, relatives and neighbors would gather around and tell folk tales to one another. They told these stories with big expressions and animated voices.

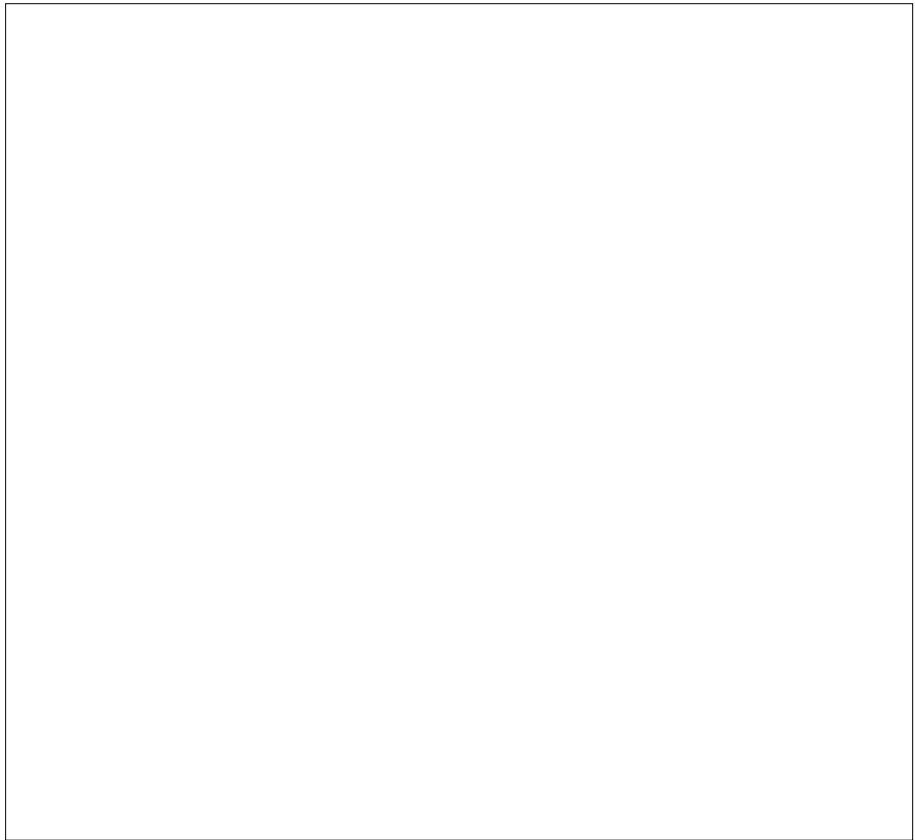


Look closely at *Brer Wolf Gets in More Trouble*, a folk tale illustration from *The Tales of Uncle Remus*. What are the main events in the story? Who are the characters? How might they talk?

Jerry Pinkney, *Brer Wolf Gets in More Trouble*, 1987, Illustration for *The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit* as retold by Julius Lester; Watercolor on paper

Use your imagination!

Redraw the scene to show what might happen next. Tell your story to a family member or friend using different voices for each character. Make sure to use your whole body to act out your tale.



ACTIVITY 7 Drawing Your World



Jerry Pinkney has made things all his life. As a child, he spent time in his father's cluttered workshop, and loved using his tools. "Most importantly I loved the idea of making something and using one's imagination to alter and change things," he said. "Dad's workshop was a fertile place which gave spark and flight to my creative spirit."

Today, the artist works in a light-filled studio filled with books, music, art supplies, plants, and many things that he has collected—from shells and feathers to old signs and African sculpture. Jerry Pinkney's sketchbook is always close at hand, and he enjoys drawing pictures of the things he sees around him. These sketchbook drawings invite us to look closely at the things in Jerry's studio, like the drawing table where he works and the art supplies that he uses every day.

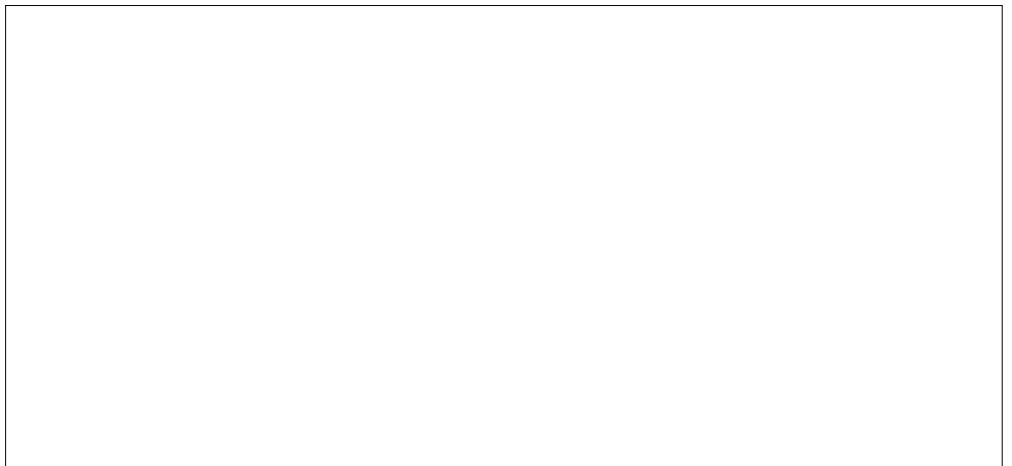
What other details do you see in the artist's sketches?

List them here: _____

Jerry Pinkney's Studio



Sketch Your World! Do you have a special place where you enjoy spending time? Is it your room, your school, a local park, or someplace else? Make a drawing of your own special place.



Consider starting your own sketchbook to keep track of the places you have been and the things you have seen!

ACTIVITY 8 **Keep Exploring at Home**

Let art be the inspiration for learning. Cut out the Jerry Pinkney image cards on the following pages and use them to play these ten language-rich games.



- Choose two cards: Name three things the images have in common. Now play again, this time notice three things that are different.
- Choose three cards: Act out one of the images and challenge others to guess which image you are acting out.
- Choose one card: Challenge everyone to give the image a title. Vote on which title you like the best. The winner gets a point.
- Pick two cards with characters on them. Say a few words as one of the characters. Choose a voice for the character and mannerisms as well. Challenge the group to guess which character you are acting out.

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- Choose a card. Now make up a story about what you see in the picture.
 - Set a card on the table. Now choose a detail in the picture. Don't tell anyone what it is. Invite everyone to guess what detail you are thinking of.
 - Write a caption to go along with each card.
 - Pick out a card. Ask everyone to tell about a personal event or event in history that the image makes them think of.
 - Chose three images and try to make up a story that incorporates all three.
 - Pick a card. Now draw your own version of the picture.



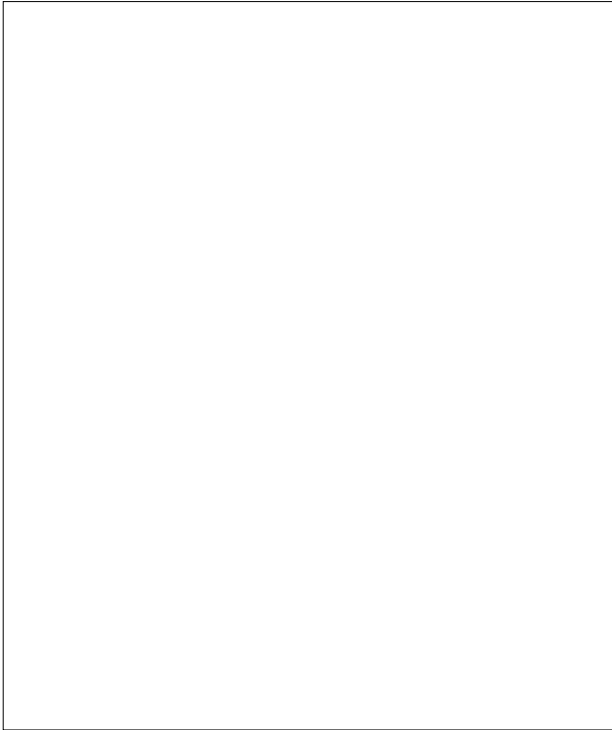




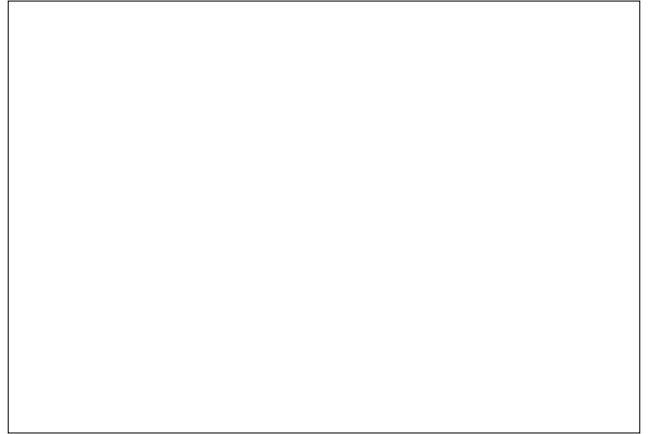
ACTIVITY 9 *Make Art All Week*

All children are artists with their own unique style and perspective. Explore art at home and on the go. Choose and try a different art activity for each day of the week!

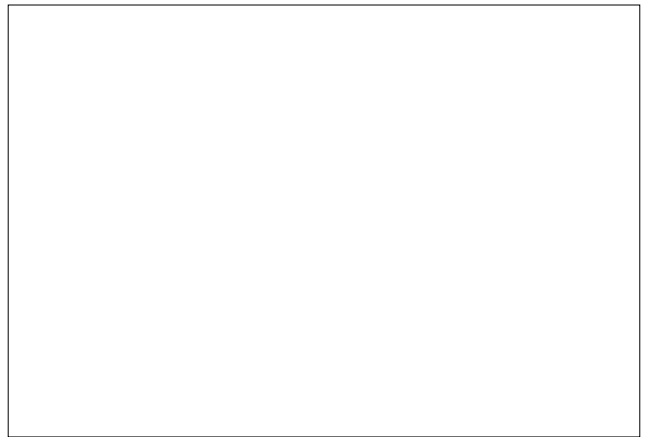
Monday Give everyone five minutes to collect household objects. Now work together to make a sculpture or scene out of these objects. Draw what you created here.



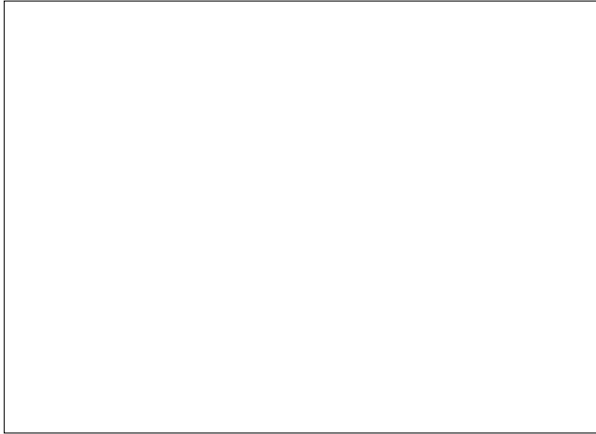
Tuesday Look out the window. Draw one thing that you see.



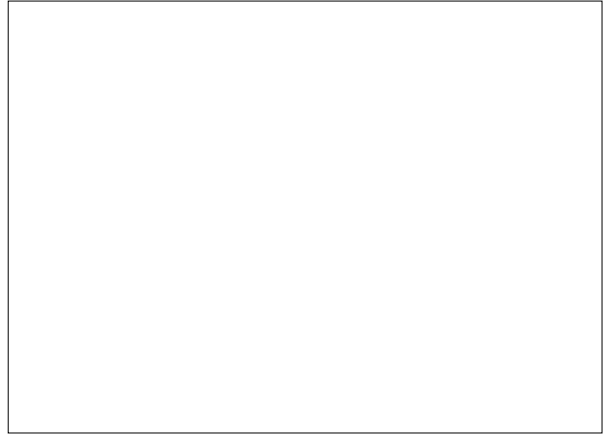
Wednesday Take a family photo. Now draw a picture of the photo. What story does it tell?



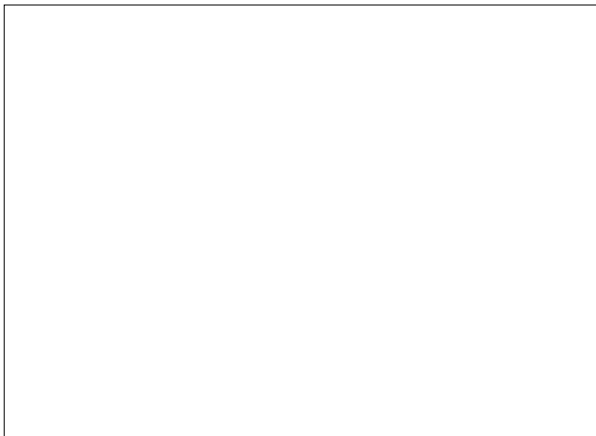
Thursday Read a story and draw your own illustrations to go with the words.



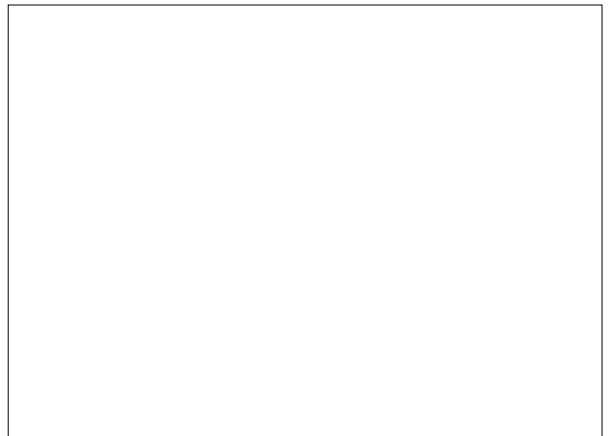
Saturday Draw a picture that shows how you are feeling.



Friday Turn on some music and paint or draw the sounds that you hear.



Sunday Draw a picture. Pass it to a friend or family member and ask them to add details.



About Jerry Pinkney

"There is something special about knowing that your stories can alter the way people see the world and their place within it." —Jerry Pinkney

Jerry Pinkney is an award-winning artist who began his creative journey in the field of illustration in 1960. A native of Philadelphia, he studied at the Philadelphia College of Art, began his career as a graphic designer and greeting card artist, and has been illustrating children's books since 1964. His art has appeared in more than one hundred books, garnering well-deserved acclaim. The recipient of a Caldecott Medal, five Caldecott Honor Medals, five Coretta Scott King Awards and four Coretta Scott King Honor Awards, Pinkney has received many commendations for his outstanding body of work, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Illustrators in New York and an Artist Laureate Award from the Norman Rockwell Museum. His illustrated books have been translated into many languages and published in fourteen different countries.

In addition to his work in children's books, Pinkney has created illustrations for a wide variety of clients, including the U.S. Postal Service, National Park Service, and *National Geographic*. He served on the U.S. Postal Services Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee for ten years, from 1982 to 1992, and in 2003, was appointed to the National Endowment for the Arts/NEA, a prestigious position held by the artist for six years. A gifted educator, he has mentored aspiring illustrators at Pratt Institute, the University of Delaware, and the New York State University at Buffalo. The recipient of Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, he has created artworks that are among the collections of The Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Delaware Art Museum, and the Brandywine River Art Museum.

Artist's Statement

I have a strong interest in why artists choose particular forms through which to express themselves. I chose book illustrations because I thrive on creating thought-provoking and engaging solutions for a text. In addition to enlivening the narrative visually with my artwork, it's important to me to provide an opportunity for the reader to appreciate different ways of living, widening the sense of a place and often, its historical context.

By grappling with my own interpretation of the world the writer creates, I grow as an artist and individual. This exhibition will speak to the meaning of the paintings themselves, and to the bookmaking process, from selecting projects that fit my artistic yearnings, to research, developmental sketches, photographing models, preparatory drawings, the finished illustrations, and at last, the bound book, which serves as both a historical object and work of art.

—Jerry Pinkney



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