



African American Art: Self-Representation

LESSON 1: Changes in Art

Vocabulary

Style: the manner in which the artist portrays his or her subject matter and how the artist expresses his or her vision.

Symbol: a recognizable thing that stands for something else, that would be hard to show.

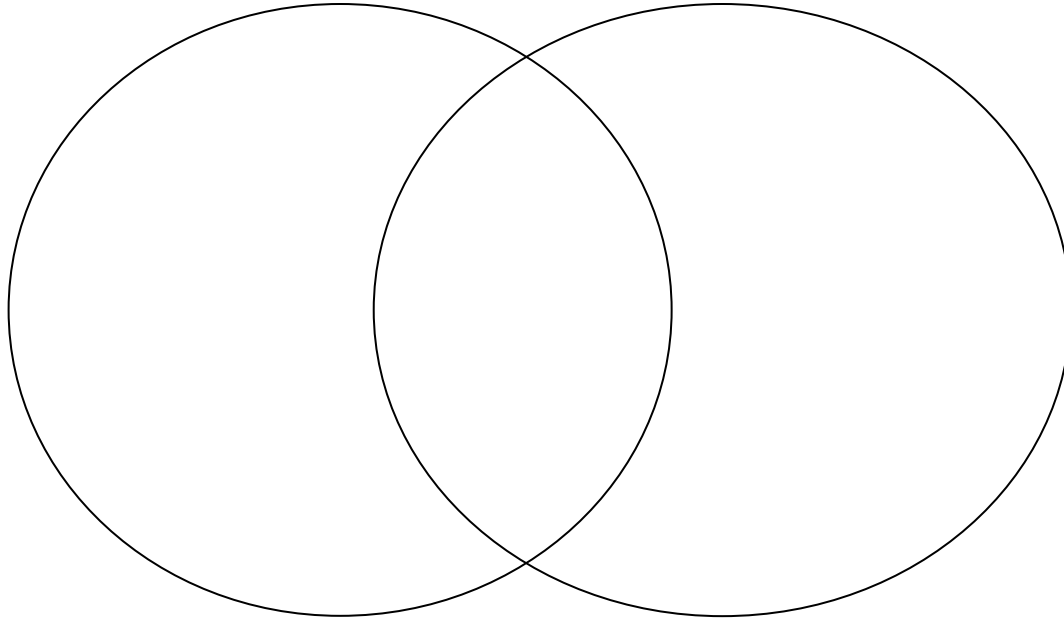
Theme: relates to the subject, message, or meaning.



Officer of the Hussars, 2007, Kehinde Wiley, American; oil on canvas.

Compare and Contrast

Use 6-8 words to compare and contrast the two time periods.



Overview



Minnehaha, Mary Edmonia Lewis (American, 1845–1907), 1868.



Robert S. Duncanson (American, 1821–72), Ellen's Isle, Loch Katrine, 1871.

One Way Ticket- Langston Hughes

I pick up my life
And take it with me
And I put it down in
Chicago, Detroit,
Buffalo, Scranton,
Any place that is North and East—
And not Dixie.

I pick up my life
And take it on the train
To Los Angeles, Bakersfield,
Seattle, Oakland, Salt Lake,

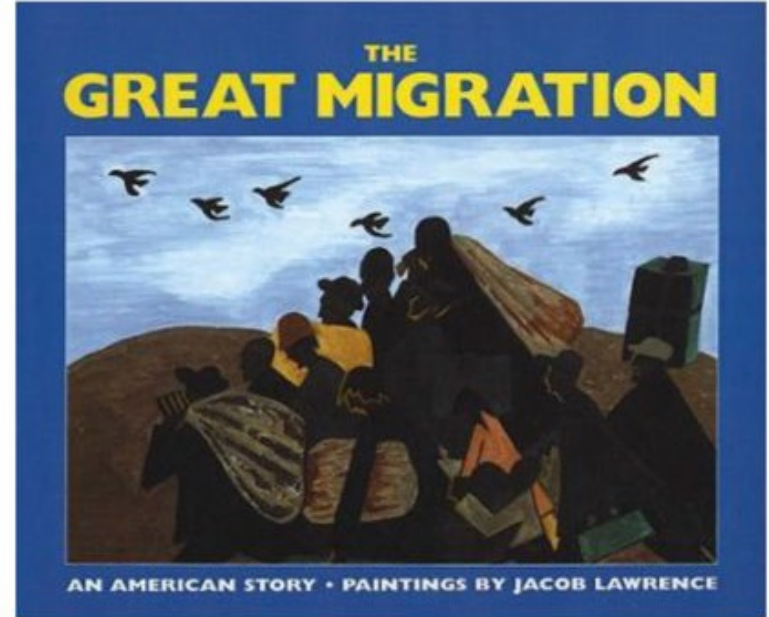
Any place that is
North and West—
And not South.

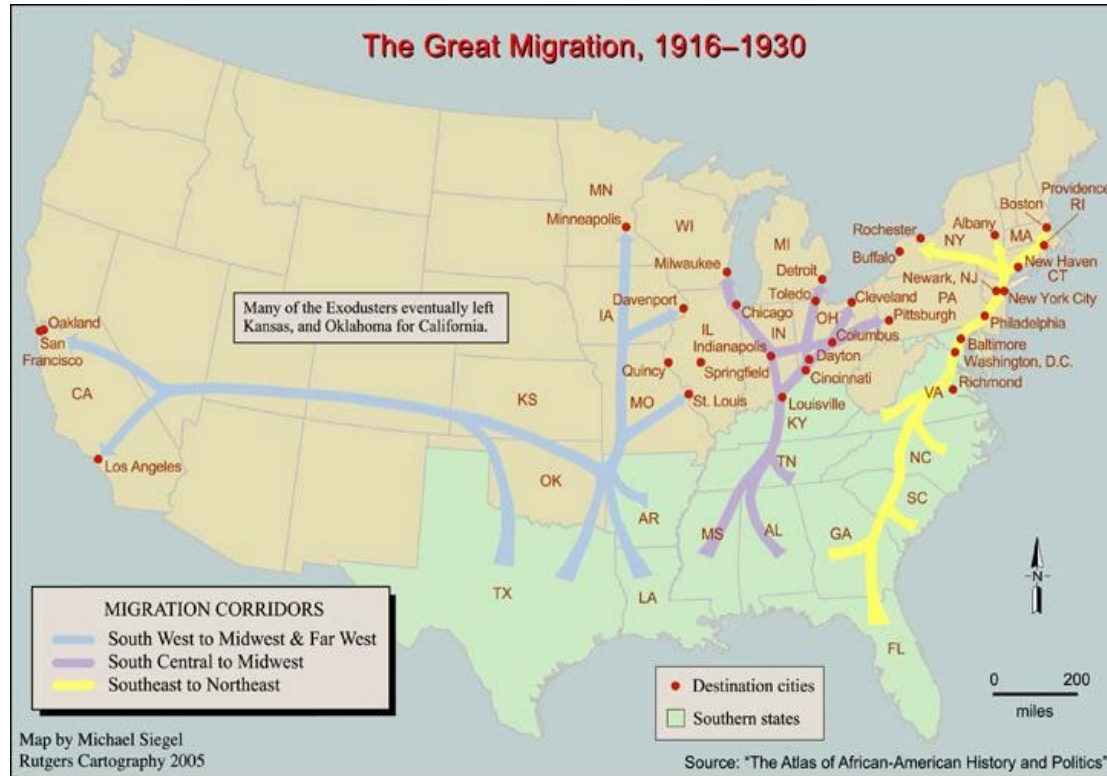
I am fed up
With Jim Crow laws,
People who are cruel
And afraid,
Who lynch and run,
Who are scared of me
And me of them.

I pick up my life
And take it away
On a one-way ticket—
Gone up North,
Gone out West,
Gone!

Post-reading Questions

- What symbols do artists use to represent some of the political and social issues African Americans faced?
- What symbols would you use to show the issues in our school? In the world?





Source: Rutgers Cartography and Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

LESSON 2: James Van Der Zee and the Harlem Renaissance

James Van Der Zee was an African American photographer who documented the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920's and 1930's. His images showed African American life and culture in Harlem.

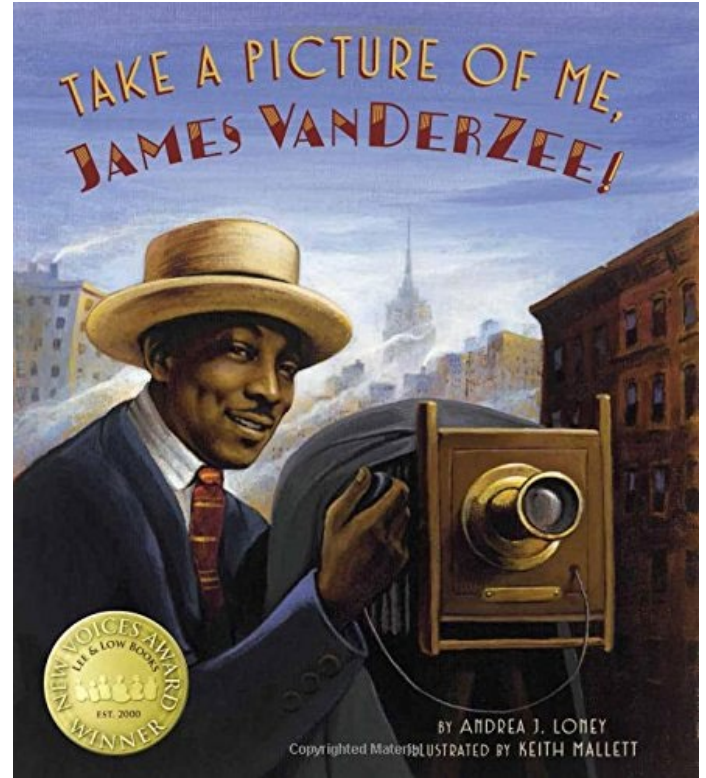
Through the use of backdrops, props, and carefully posed sitters, he portrayed beauty and elegance. He also often retouched photographs and enhanced them with photomontage.



James Van Der Zee (American, 1886–1983), *Portrait of a Woman*, 1932

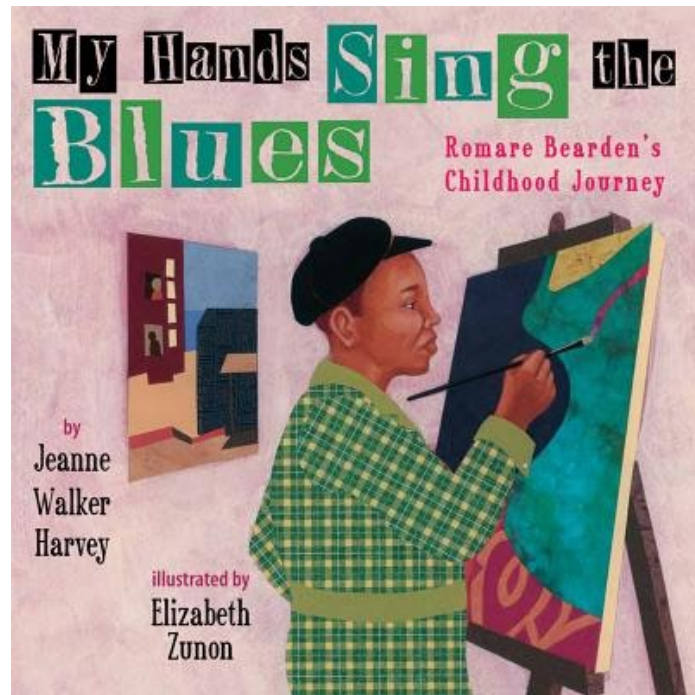
James Van Der Zee

Art from the Harlem Renaissance, including Van Der Zee's photographs, challenged the racist and negative stereotypes of African Americans found in the South and in mainstream media.



LESSON 3: Personal Narrative

- What are three important moments in your life?
- Select one to write a personal narrative about.
- Your narrative should include a setting, characters, a beginning, middle, and ending.



Personal Narrative Collage

- Create a collage to represent your personal narrative.
- What moment in the narrative do you want to depict?
- Which materials will you use?



Quilting Time, 1986, Romare Bearden, American; mosaic tesserae mounted on plywood.