

Inspired by A Century of Masters

Aurelia Gomez

Lesson One: Car and Truck Heroes and Heroines

Objectives

Students will:

- understand how the images of saints portrayed by New Mexican *santeros* change and evolve over time.
- learn about the images and forms used to create *santos* and *retablos*.
- find their own solutions in the process of creating their own images of heroes and heroines in vehicles.

Materials

pencils
scrap paper
12 x 9" (30 x 23 cm) foam sheets
glue
permanent markers
scissors
sequins
feathers
buttons
decorative papers (optional)

Motivation

Have students look at traditional images of saints as found in New Mexican retablos. Also show them images of contemporary retablos created by Charlie Carrillo, who showed innovation by placing saints in vehicles that they are driving. Ask students who their heroes and heroines are. They can discuss religious figures, political figures, musicians, actors, actresses—whoever they look up to.

Why do students admire certain people? What qualities do their heroes and heroines have? Have students

imagine the type of vehicle their subjects would be driving and where they would be going. Tell students that they will be making car and truck heroes and heroines and using their imaginations to create a convincing work of art.

Procedures

1. Have students draw their ideas for a car or truck on scrap paper along with the figure they want to place inside it.
2. Cut out the images of the car and the hero or heroine from the scrap paper to use as a stencil for tracing on the foam.
3. Cut out the foam figure.
4. Glue the figure into the vehicle.
5. Decorate with feathers, buttons, sequins, decorative papers, and permanent markers.

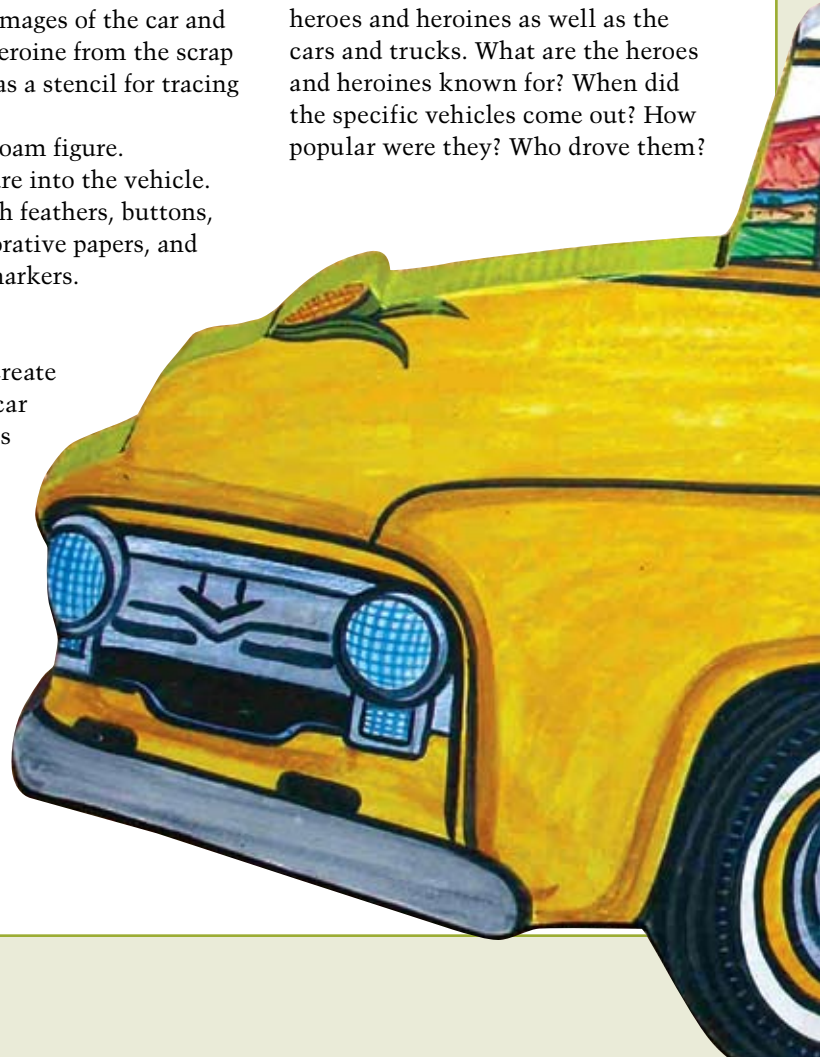
Evaluation

Have students create labels for their car and truck heroes and heroines, including information about the characters they

selected and vehicles they are driving. Create a display of student work including the labels.

Use the car and truck heroes and heroines to stimulate writing and character description. Have students make lists of adjectives that describe the heroes and heroines and another list to describe the cars. Students can merge lists and read them aloud. How do the descriptive words make them feel?

Students can research some of the heroes and heroines as well as the cars and trucks. What are the heroes and heroines known for? When did the specific vehicles come out? How popular were they? Who drove them?



Lesson Two: Storyteller Figures

Objectives

Students will:

- understand how storyteller figures were created and became popular.
- learn about the images and forms used to create storyteller figures.
- find their own solutions in the process of creating their own storyteller figures.

Materials

clay
newspaper
plastic containers for water
clay tools
small cardboard pieces
plastic bags to cover drying clay

Motivation

Show students images of storyteller figures and explain that Helen Cordero made the first storyteller figure

after she tried to make pots and vessels but didn't feel successful. She was thinking about her grandfather who was a great storyteller and who was frequently surrounded by children who were eager to hear his tales. Ask students who tells them stories or how do they hear stories? If they could describe a storyteller who is real or imaginary, what would he or she look like? Who would be listening? They can make a real or an imaginary character, a human, an animal, a plant, or an inanimate object.

Procedures

1. Students divide the clay into a large piece for the storyteller and a smaller piece for the listeners.
2. Make the storyteller figure. This should be a simple, strong shape. Use clay modeling techniques such as scoring and using slip to reinforce joined pieces.

3. Add the listeners to the storyteller figure, or place them around the main figure. Place the clay figures on the small cardboard pieces.
4. Decorate the figures with textures using clay tools.

Evaluation

Give the storyteller figures names and histories. Where do they live? What culture did they grow up in? What stories do they tell?

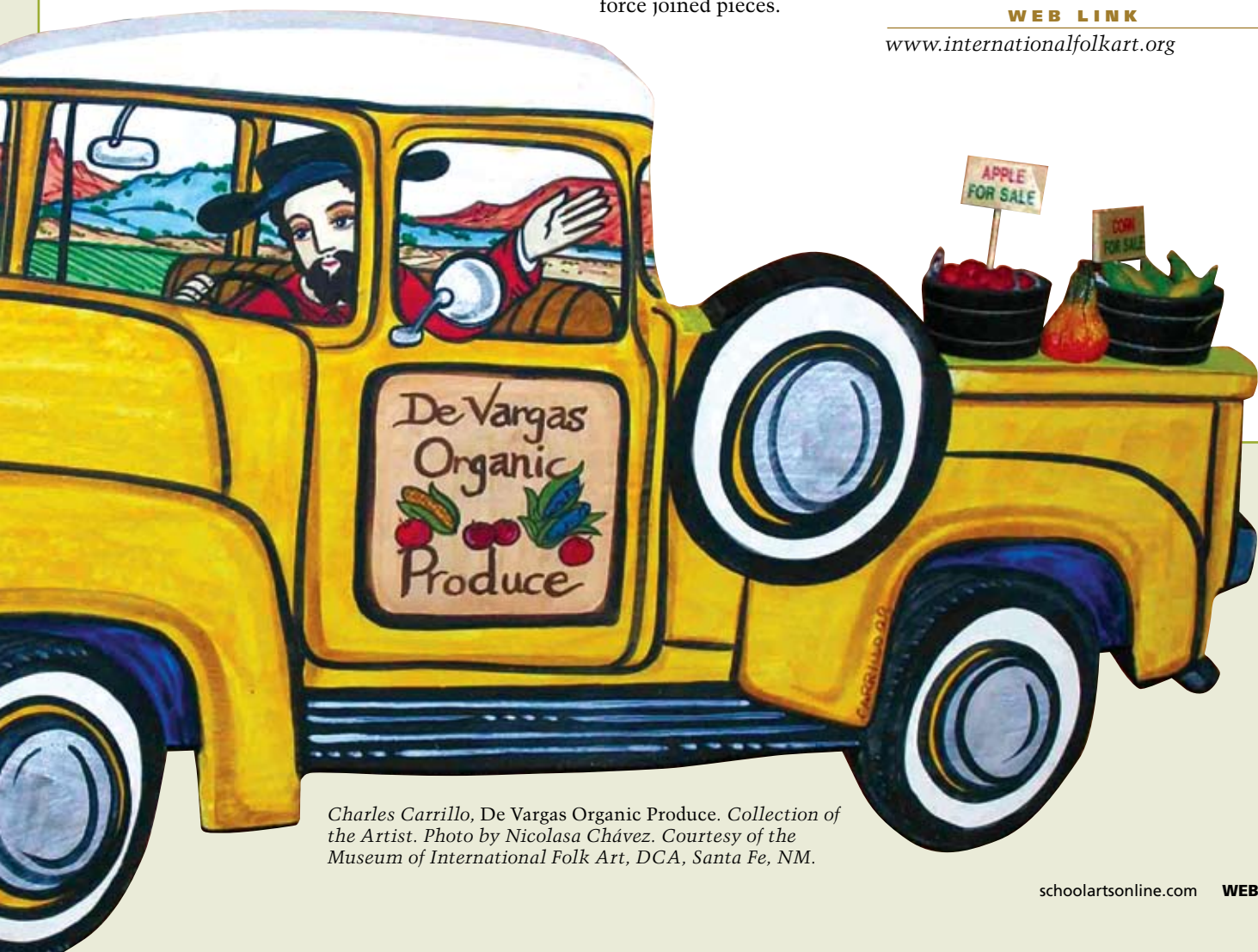
Have the students write down the stories that their storytellers tell. They can read them aloud beside their storyteller figure.

Paint the storyteller figures, or, if a kiln is available, fire and glaze the figures. 🌀

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WEB LINK

www.internationalfolkart.org



Charles Carrillo, De Vargas Organic Produce. Collection of the Artist. Photo by Nicolasa Chávez. Courtesy of the Museum of International Folk Art, DCA, Santa Fe, NM.