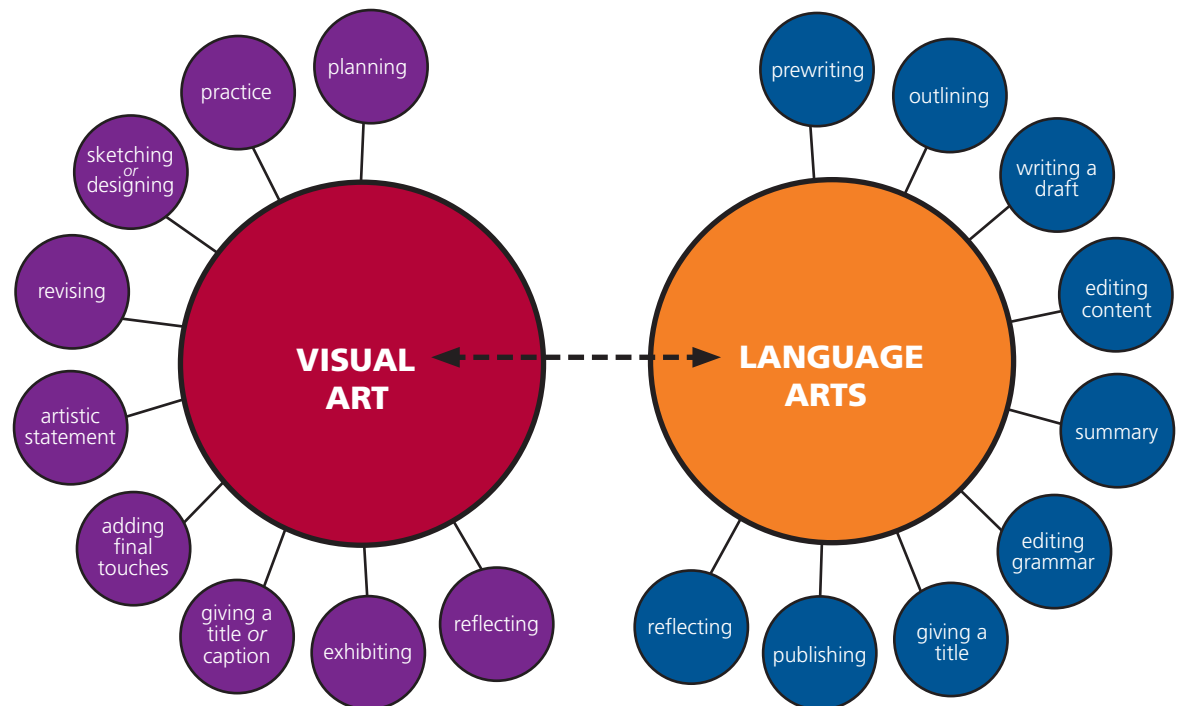


ARTS & LANGUAGE ARTS CONNECTIONS

ART AND WRITING CONNECTIONS

THE CONNECTION >

There is a natural connection between Visual Art and Language Arts that enriches and facilitates each other.



There is a natural connection between Visual Art and Language Arts that enriches and facilitates each in a reciprocal manner. Both means of expression are most meaningful when they allow us to express thoughts, ideas and feelings common to the human experience we all share. Artists and writers show us through their work the unique details of events, places and circumstances that reflect the time, place and cultural context of their artistic expressions.

*Presented by
Davis Publications*



ART CRITICISM ←

SHOTGUN, THIRD WARD #1 > **JOHN BIGGERS**

Use the image of the painting to the right to complete the Art Criticism Exercise below.

Describe What do you see in this painting?

Analyze How did the artist use different values of the same color to create the illusion of three dimensions?

African American artist John Biggers used a complementary color scheme in this scene. What effect do these colors create?

Fig 2-35 John Biggers, *Shotgun, Third Ward #1*, 1966. Oil on canvas, 30" x 48" (76.2 x 121.9 cm). Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC/Art Resource, New York.

Interpret How do you think the artist felt about the people in this painting?

Evaluate What makes this a successful genre painting?



ART CRITICISM EXERCISE

1

DESCRIBE:

2

ANALYZE:

3

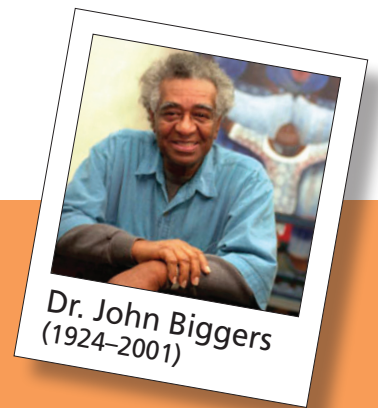
INTERPRET:

4

EVALUATE:

---> MEET THE ARTIST

Artists like **JOHN BIGGERS** must select what they want to record. Some artists focus on special events or important people. Others **show** ordinary people doing ordinary things, such as children playing in the rain or talking with friends. Some artists **observe** carefully and remember what they see, others make **sketches** and some take pictures to show record scenes or ideas for their final artworks. **Settings** are also important. The addition of buildings, scenery or objects put backgrounds into the recognizable world. Artists use **position, color or contrast** to show focal point or center of interest. In the picture to the left John Biggers, the artist, shows houses in a neighborhood called Third Ward in Houston, Texas. He calls the work *Shotgun, Third Ward#1*. The type of house that is shown in the artwork is called a shotgun house because it is narrow and deep with all rooms connecting to a single hallway. It is said that you could fire a shotgun strait through such a house. That is where the name originates.



Biggers was born in North Carolina. His Early works emphasized the struggles and everyday hardships of African Americans. Biggers was one of the first African American artist to travel to Africa in order to better understand African culture and incorporate it into his work.

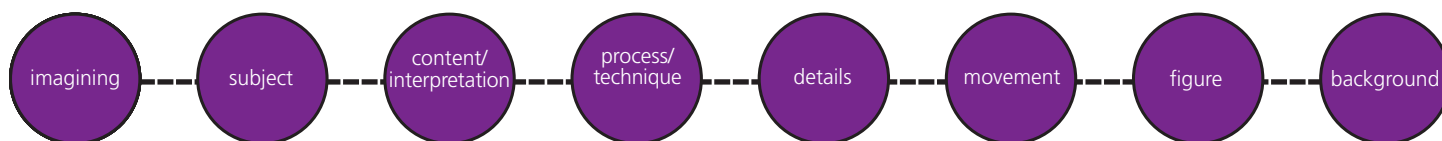
FOR YOUR SKETCHBOOK

MAKE A SECTION IN YOUR SKETCHBOOK where you keep records of your daily life that you may want to use in future artworks. Include lists of words and phrases, as well as photographs and sketches.

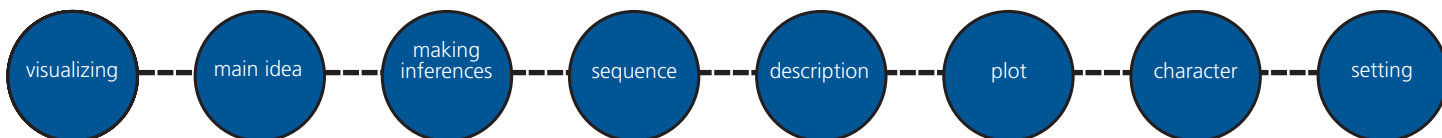
USE YOUR DAILY LIFE to inspire future artworks. Keep a list of words and phrases, as well as sketches and photographs, that you find interesting or that inspire you.

VISUAL ART AND READING CONNECTIONS

VISUAL ART



READING



ART AND WRITING EXERCISE

Work in groups of three or four to create a story about the artwork *Shotgun, Third Ward #1* by John Biggers. Choose one person to write and another to read the story. Remember that a story has to have a beginning, a problem or dilemma and an ending that resolves the problem. Use humor and the vocabulary you find above. Share your stories with the class.

SAMPLE STUDIO >

Studio Time

Records of the Past

- Find a family photograph or cutout from an old newspaper or magazine to use as inspiration.
- Make a drawing showing what daily life was like back then.
- What people and objects will you include?
- What kind of background setting will you draw?
- You may choose to add color to your drawing when it is finished.



Inspired by an old family photograph, this student artist made a drawing of her father as a toddler, walking with the help of a baby stroller or walker. What can you learn about the daily life of this child by looking at the environment around him?

Fig. 2–21 Student artwork.