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Faith Ringgold Story Quilts



Faith Ringgold,
Tar Beach 2, 1990

Faith Ringgold is an African American painter, writer, mixed media sculptor, and performance artist, best known for her narrative quilts or "Story Quilts". Her artwork is inspired by African art and uses bold colors and quilted fabric frames around her paintings. Her quilts typically tell stories of her childhood, growing up in Harlem, NY, during the Harlem Renaissance, as well as touching upon racial and feminist issues.

Create your own story quilts with a patterned border and narrative picture in the center just as Faith Ringgold does in her award-winning children's book, *Tar Beach*.



Gather materials:

- Colored Pencils / Crayons
- Construction Paper
- Cardstock Paper
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue



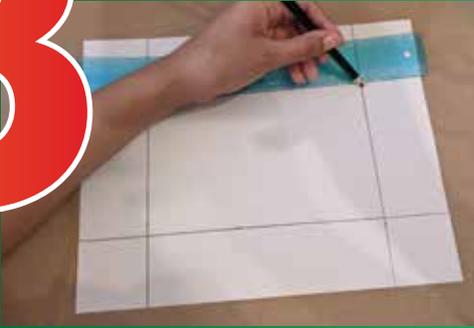
Using a ruler, mark a two-inch dotted border around a piece of cardstock paper.

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3



Connect the dotted marks to create a line on each side of the paper that is two inches away from the edge.

4



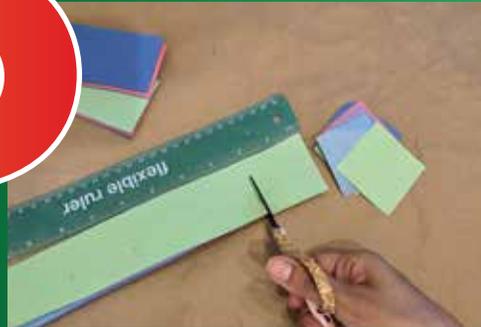
Measure two-inch strips on a piece of colored construction paper by using the same method of first marking a dotted line, and then drawing the line.

5



Stack three to four pages of various colored constructions papers on top of each other with your marked construction paper on top. Cut the two-inch strips out.

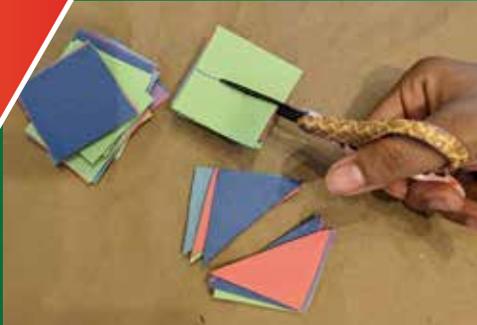
6



Measure two inches down each strip and cut them into two-inch squares.



7



To create horizontal and diagonal patterns, cut the squares in even halves across and diagonally.

8



Begin to draw your narrative story in the center square. In the book, the main character, Cassie, uses her imagination to fly over special places. Use your drawing to tell a story of some of your special places. This could be where you took a special vacation, or had a fun family outing, or even at your home doing something you love.

9



Using glue, begin to create a patterned border by adding the triangles and rectangles in twos together in different colors.

10



Change the position and color to create new patterns as you work your way around the border.



11 12



If you have an extra space that is not a complete square, add a half size piece and cut of the excess paper.



Continue adding pieces of cut out pattern pieces around the entire border until it is completely full. And you are done!

