



Family Participation Guide

COMPAS presents: Talking Suitcases with Susan Armington

Today you are experiencing an arts education program presented by COMPAS! Artists—like scientists—explore the world ... start your exploration here:

About the Residency:

Students make *Talking Suitcases* to tell stories about what they love. Pizza? Fishing? Flying squirrels? Magical towers? Dream it up and we'll build it with pop-ups and papers, fabrics, colored pencils, glue and boxes, boxes, boxes. Susan guides students in planning scenes, drawing and making pop-ups, 3-D things, and collage boxes. The boxes and 3-D art come to life when the students talk about them—each person takes a turn to show off their cool stuff and tell their stories. This art and story project is a great start to a lifetime of drawing and making art on one's own, and to sharing personal stories through art.

About Susan Armington:

Susan's art reflects the world she sees and feels. Her works are maps of imaginative geography, paintings and 3-D collage sculptures which she exhibits locally and nationwide. Her art and community work deal with telling our stories and connecting across differences. She teaches students to make art about themselves and their world, then speak and write about it. They use 2-D and 3-D materials- drawing, papers, fabrics, beads, wire, boxes, sparkly Mylar, wood bits, hot glue, suitcases and more.

Vocabulary:

Collage: art that is made by gluing bits of paper or other things together

3-D "three dimensional": something that has height, width and depth, like any object in the real world. Example: your body is three-dimensional. (The opposite is 2-D which is flat).

Background: the part of a picture or scene that is behind everything, in the back

Pop-up: a bit of art on stiff paper that stands up in space instead of lying flat

Suggested family discussion questions:

- What do you like to do in the summer?
- What's your favorite thing to eat?
- Who's special to you? (Could be a person or animal)
- What's your dream for the future?
- What's a place that you love? Why?
- What's your favorite magic thing?

A few places to search for answers:

- *The Best of Making Things: A Handbook of Creative Discovery* by Ann Sayre Wiseman (2006) Paperback
- *Ed Emberley's Drawing Book: Make a World* Paperback – April 5, 2006 by Ed Emberley (Author, Illustrator)
- *Easy-to-Make Pop-Ups* (Dover Origami Papercraft) Nov 4, 2005 by Joan Irvine and Barbara Reid



COMPAS is a nationally-recognized provider of Arts Education programs.

For more information, to donate, or to schedule a program in your local school or other community location, please contact us at:

COMPAS.org

475 Cleveland Ave North, Suite 222

Saint Paul, MN 55104

Arts Residencies: 651.292.3254

Arts Performances: 651.292.3265