

### BECAUSE OF AUGUSTA SAVAGE

**AGES 9-12** 

BOTWC MINI POSING AS AUGUSTA SAVAGE

# THE ART OF WORDS

As you read the story, think of ways you can add in more figurative language (or words that help you think of your five senses). The first paragraph shows underlined descriptive words that help you to imagine what you are reading. Rewrite the sentences that are numbered to add more descriptive language and answer the questions below. You may need to do a little research to learn more about Augusta Savage's life and work to help you out!

Augusta Savage was an <u>African-American</u> sculptor known for her work especially during the Harlem Renaissance, which was a time filled with <u>beautiful</u> art, music, and writing. She was born in the <u>sunny</u> state of Florida and had a passion for art at a very young age. However, her father did not approve of it as a career. For a long time Augusta stopped sculpting because she did not have a lot of support or resources. Her dream may have been **deferred**, "<u>like a raisin in the sun</u>", as Langston Hughes would say, but it was not stopped.

Augusta Savage was inspired once again when a local potter gave her some clay. With it she created a sculpture that won a special prize in a county fair. After that she continued her work. Although





at times she did not have as much success as she hoped for, she continued her passion and it paid off. (1) She won even more awards and was able to study in Paris.

Savage's work started to be more and more recognized over time, and she won several prizes and awards for her work. Eventually was **commissioned** to make sculptures of some very famous Black figures such as WEB Dubois and Marcus Garvey. (2) Augusta Savage was not only talented and determined, but she also helped others enhance their skills when she worked as an art teacher. Savage even made history as the first African American elected to the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors and the first director of the Harlem Community Art Center.

One of her most famous works was a sculpture that was inspired by a poem by James Weldon Johnson called "Lift Every Voice and Sing". (3) That piece, called "The Harp," took Savage about two years to complete and was about 16 feet tall. It was a symbol that was seen by over five million people where it was first displayed, and millions more later on.

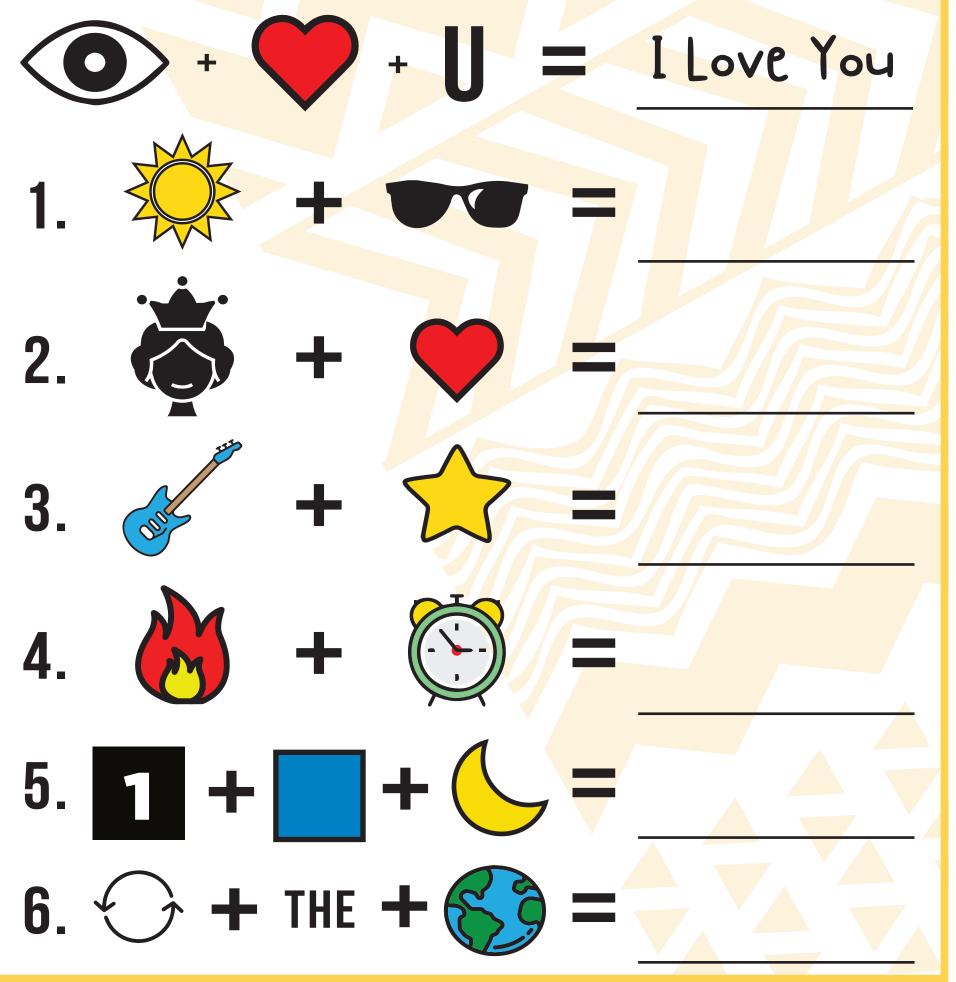
Augusta Savage had a dream that she worked to accomplish no matter how many setbacks occurred. Not only is she remembered for her amazing artwork, but she was also an inspiration because of the light she shed on Black faces and her **contribution** as an art teacher. One of her students was another well-known artist named Jacob Lawrence. Savage will forever be remembered as one of the great artists of the Harlem Renaissance and her influence lives on. She once said, "I have created nothing really beautiful, really lasting,but if I can inspire one of these youngsters to develop the talent I know they possess, then my monument will be in their work." And while many would disagree that she created nothing beautiful or lasting, it is certainly true that she was an inspiration.



READ & RESPOND
1. In the sentence "Augusta Savage was an <u>African-American</u> sculptor known for her work especially during the Harlem Renaissance, which was a time filled with <u>beautiful</u> art, music, and writing." What part of speech is African-American and why is it important to have it in the sentence?
2. In the sentence "Her dream may have been deferred, ' <u>like a raisin in the sun</u> ', as Langston Hughes would say, but it was not stopped." Why was the phrase 'a raisin in the sun' used?
3. Add more descriptive/figurative language in the line (1) She won even more awards and was able to study in Paris.
4. Reread the sentence you wrote in question three - how does the language affect the sentence?
5. Add more descriptive/figurative language in the line (2) Augusta Savage was not only talented and determined, but she also helped others enhance their skills when she worked an art teacher.
6. Add more descriptive/figurative language in the line (3) That piece, called "The Harp," took Savage about two years to complete and was about 16 feet tall.

#### A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS

You may have heard someone say "A picture is worth a thousand words". Images and symbols are really important and artists use them to show many different ideas. It may be a message, story, or feeling. Look at the images below and use their symbols and meaning to try and figure out what word or words the picture is really saying. See the example given below:





### **COLOR BY NUMBER**

On the next page is an image that you can color. Solve the math problems below to determine which colors to use in the numbered spaces. You can use multiplication bars or other symbols to help you to determine the missing number and

solve the equations.

- 1. Color 1: 30 is 6 times what number?
- 2. Color 2: 24 is 12 times what number?
- 3. Color 3: 1 times what number is 7?
- 4. Color 4: 12 is how many times 2?
- 5. Color 5: 40 is 10 times what number?
- 6. Color 6: 33 is 11 times what number?
- 7. Color 7: 100 is 100 times what number?



#### ▲ \ \ ▼ ▲ \ \ ▼ ▲ \ \ ▼ GLOSSARY ▲ \ \ ▼ ▲ \ \ ▼ ▲ \ \ ▼

Figurative language - a creative way to use words and phrases beyond just their meaning, or help increase the emotional power of the words.

Sculptor - a person who makes pieces of art by carving or molding clay, stone, metal, etc.

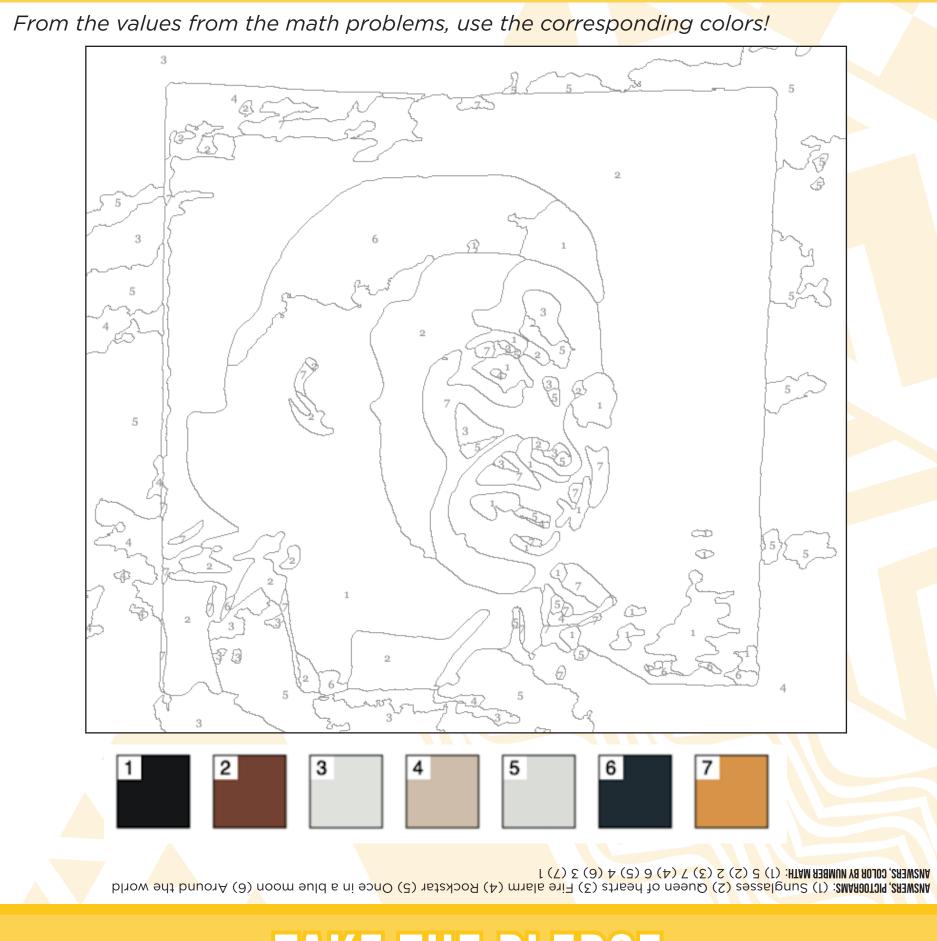
Harlem Renaissance - a period of intense creativity in music, visual arts, and literature that celebrated African-American heritage and took place in the 1920s. **Deferred** - chose to do (something) at a later time.

**Commissioned** - produced specially to order (especially of a work of art.)

**Contribution** - something that is given to help a person, a cause, etc.



# **TIME TO COLOR!**



# TAKE THE PLEDGEI WILL BELIEVE<br/>IN ME.I WILL PURSUE<br/>MY DREAMS.

I WILL HONOR

THE SACRIFICES OF MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL HELP OTHERS ALONG THE WAY.