

## Painted Stories

### Inspired by Jacob Lawrence

#### Artist Info:

Jacob Lawrence was an African-American painter born in 1917 in New Jersey and raised in Harlem. Lawrence began to draw, color and paint at an after school program and by experimenting taught himself to paint. He also learned about black heroes such as Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman. Lawrence really wanted his work to tell a story, so he painted a series of painting about Harriet Tubman. He then did another series on Frederick Douglas. These works really caught on and became famous. His work focuses on the history of African Americans in the United States. His work features historic events, scenes of everyday life and points in the life of African American heroes.

#### Art Activity

Lawrence created painting about everything that he saw and wanted his painting to tell a story. Create your own painted stories. Think of important historical or personal event and then write a story about this event.

#### Materials needed

Paper, crayons/colored pencils, paintbrush, watercolor

-Think of important historical event or personal event and come up with a story about the event. Try and include small details such as names and dates.

- Then use your crayons or colored pencils to draw a portrait of the people or person featured in their stories. Add other images from your story around the portrait and use bright and bold colors.

-(Optional) Use watercolors to add to the background of your drawing. Make sure to add water to the brush to give a wash effect.

