



Stories and symmetry

GRADES 1-3

Doris Waddell created quilts woven with memories of her family.

Explore the ideas of family and design with these activities:

ART ACTIVITIES

Start planning your own family quilt

Design a paper quilt square that reflects who you are. Starting with a square piece of paper and Waddell's quilt for inspiration, draw and colour your own square. Think about an activity you can draw yourself doing, or a location you can draw yourself into. Don't forget to think about colours, too. Warm colours (yellow, orange, and red) and cool colors (green, blue, and purple) can help create a mood and show more of your personality.

Ask your family members to do this activity as well, then put the squares all together. Discuss what story your quilt tells.



Doris Waddell

Family Album Quilt, 1987-1990
quilted, appliqued and pieced cotton quilt,
polyester batting.
Gift of Doris I. Waddell, 2009
(Q09-001)



Doris Waddell

Family Album Quilt (details), 1987-1990, quilted, appliqued and pieced cotton quilt, polyester batting. Gift of Doris I. Waddell, 2009 (Q09-001)

Make symmetrical snowflakes

Did you notice, some of the symmetrical quilt squares look like snowflakes? Create your own paper snowflakes by following [this tutorial](#). The video shows you how to properly fold and cut paper to make a symmetrical design. Try making some of your own designs, too. Can you predict what your snowflake will look like before unfolding it?

Sculpt with clay

Choose a square from *Family Album Quilt* and imagine what it would look like in 3D. Sculpt the scene or pattern using different coloured plasticine, dough or clay.

Create with nature

Go on a walk or ride around your neighbourhood with a family member. During your outing, pick up natural objects (such as leaves, stones, shells). Sort the found objects by size and colour. Use these to create a symmetrical design in a circular shape.



Doris Waddell

Family Album Quilt (detail), 1987-1990
quilted, appliqued and pieced cotton quilt, polyester batting.
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(Q09-001)

If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities

Find the line of symmetry

Practice finding and drawing the line of symmetry on the quilt patterns provided on page 4. It can be horizontal (side to side), vertical (up and down) or diagonal. Heads up, some examples may have more than one line of symmetry!

Watch this short film: [Oma's Quilt](#)

Watch the animated short film *Oma's Quilt*. This story shows how meaningful and sentimental quilts can be. Similar to Waddell's *Family Album Quilt*, *Oma's quilt* is full of memories of her family and life. After watching, take some time to reflect on the short film. Why do you think the quilt made *Oma* feel better about her move? What makes repurposing old materials into something new so special?

Listen to family stories

Sit down with a family member and ask them to share stories about your family history or their own childhood. If you have one, you might want to look at a family photo album as a place to start.

GLOSSARY

Self-Portrait: A work of art that an artist creates of themselves.

Symmetry: When an object looks the exact same on one side as the other.

3D or Three Dimensional: Something that is not flat and exists in three dimensions, meaning it has length, height and depth. For example, a circle is two-dimensional, a sphere is three-dimensional.

Line of Symmetry: An imaginary line (or axis) that passes through the centre of a shape or object. If you folded an image along that line, the halves would match exactly.

Warm and Cool Colours: Warm colors are red, yellow and orange. These are associated with heat and emotions like excitement, anger and frustration. Cool colors are blue, green and purple. The cool colors are associated with cold things, and feelings including sadness, comfort and calm.

