

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### Mary Blair's Unique Flair: The Girl Who Became One of the Disney Legends

Written by Amy Novesky / Illustrated by Brittney Lee  
40 pages / Grades K-4

From her earliest days, Mary Blair loved color and wanted to do nothing but create art. She collected color and saw the world through an eye of imagination. Don't we all envision a turquoise moon? Follow her from being an imaginative child to becoming a Disney Legend, an illustrator who shaped a world of fantasy.

#### C Context

A brief historical look into the world of **Walt Disney** and so many of the films we have all come to love. A chance to share with students original designs for animated movies such as Cinderella and Dumbo, as well as beloved rides like "It's a Small World".

**Geography** - Mary collected colors from around the world. Her adventures allow an introduction to the world and locating places on a map, while also acknowledging the culture and contribution of each place.

#### A Arts

**Color** - Mary didn't just see basic colors, she saw shades and hues. Color vocabulary is very rich and robust.

**Cut paper illustrations.** The illustrator used Mary's unique style and blended it with cut paper illustrations. There is a glimpse into the process at the end of the book.

The art of **whimsical design.** Mary found a way to blend imagination and magic with reality and that paired hand in hand with the work of Walt Disney.

#### T Themes

Being a dreamer

Imagination

Magic

Believing

Following a passion

Breaking the rules

#### C Create

Build a color dictionary. Collect colors and examples of colors from their own journeys.

Create a new color and name it. Challenge students to create a color a day. How do they choose their name?

After collecting and creating colors, ask students to break the rules and color their worlds differently. Close their eyes and just imagine the real world with magic thrown in. For older students, follow up with a written artist statement.

#### H Heart Words

*"...and her favorite color - blanco - the color of a blank piece of paper, of possibility."*

*"She painted colors you weren't supposed to paint together."*

*"It was a small world after all."*

*"...colorful happily ever afters."*

