

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### Pocket Full of Colors: The Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney Artist Extraordinaire

Written by Amy Guglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville

Illustrated by Brigette Barrager

48 pages / Grades 2-5

Mary Blair lived her life in wild, vivid, imaginative colors which paved the way for her at a time when the job market was filled with men who saw the world in black and white - except for one.

#### C Context

Role of **women in the workforce**, particularly in the 1940s.

**Geography** - Mary's adventures foster using maps and globes, while also acknowledging the culture and contribution of each location.

The rise of **Walt Disney Studios** to becoming the institution we all know. Looking at perspective.

**Adjectives** are used richly throughout the story to help students visualize in the way Mary did.

#### A Arts

**Color names** - there is a treasure trove of color names throughout the book.

The **"rules" of color**. How do we traditionally see colors working together, what is a color palette in illustration and what happens when that changes?

The **Art of Walt Disney**. Use this as a launching point to dive into the unique world of imagination and illustration. Many will recognize Mary's work, but few will know her name.

#### T Themes

Perseverance

Trailblazing

Imagination

Whimsy

Breaking the rules

Standing strong to one's beliefs.

Finding a style

#### C Create

Collect colors and create your own. Let students go on a color word hunt in the book, many which they will not know. Ask them to decide what kind of color goes with each word and why. Then show the true colors.

Live and dream outside the lines. Be wild and vivid and look at the world differently. Take a picture of a place in your world, and then color it differently. A purple sky? Challenge students to not be random in their work, but to make deliberate, inspired choices.

#### H Heart Words

*"Under a wide blue sky, on a red-dirt road, in a lemon-yellow house..."*

*"...she had new colors to collect."*

*"She kept those colors in her heart."*

*"...a place for her colors to run and dance and play as they pleased."*

