

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines

Written by Jeanne Walker Harvey, Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk

32 pages / Grades 2-5

The daughter of artists and future designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, Maya Lin was always aware of the space around her. She thought and made art with her hands. The simplicity of the written language and illustration aligns with the memorial and draws readers in.

### C Context

The **power of names**.  
Not only a person's name, but the process of naming art.

#### Vietnam War

**Memorials** - what are they and why do we create them?

**Symbols** - looking at the reasoning behind the choices made around the creation of the memorial will have students thinking about symbols and meaning.

The **role of women** in an occupational field traditionally held for men.

### A Arts

The art of **architecture**. Finding patterns and purpose. maya Lin was extremely purposeful in her choices and design. Allow this to begin important conversations to artistic **choice** and **purpose**.

**How - and why - do people make art?** A look at many forms - clay, with words, light, etc.

**Light and color:** how does light influence the viewing of art?

### T Themes

Thinking freely

Grit

Determination

Artistry

Tributes

### C Create

Connect to a chosen piece of history being studied (or an event in their family/ community) and ask students to design a memorial/tribute to it. They will need to include symbols, color choice and artistic design. They will write an artistic statement to explain their choices.

### H Heart Words

*"A name brings back all the memories of a person."*

*"Dream, think again and create something new."*

