

# PLACARDS OF WORD PLAY

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT  
TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGE ARTS & ART  
GRADES: 3 & 4

## BASED ON



Gillian Wearing, *Self Portrait at 17 Years Old*, 2003, chromogenic print. © Gillian Wearing. Courtesy of the artist, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, Maureen Paley, London, and Regen Projects, Los Angeles.

“I know nothing in the world that has as much power as a word. Sometimes I write one, and I look at it until it begins to shine.” Emily Dickinson

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will create a placard with an illustrated palindrome or oxymoron.
- Students will photograph other students holding a placard in multiple settings around the school and on the playground.
- Students will use the free computer program, Flipgrid, to create a video about their word choice.
- Students will read and analyze various children’s literature books to increase their knowledge of palindromes and oxymorons.
- Students will learn about the life and art of Gillian Wearing.

## CONCEPT

The purpose of the lesson is to connect the work of artist, Gillian Wearing, to the lives of third and fourth grade students. The self-portrait of Wearing holding her work of art is comparable to photographs captured of children holding their works of art throughout any given school year. Words are a focus in many of Wearing’s work, in particular, her exhibit titled “Signs That Say What You Want Them To Say.” This lesson combines vocabulary units, photography, and videography to showcase the power of words and make a connection to Wearing’s art.

## MATERIALS

Poster Board or foam board (various sizes)  
 Sharpies  
 Computer  
 Printer  
 Flipgrid free computer program  
 iPads for photography  
 Children's literature books

## VOCABULARY

Placard- poster or sign for public display, either fixed to a wall or carried during a demonstration  
 Word play- the witty meanings and ambiguities of words  
 Palindrome- a word or phrase that reads the same forward as backward  
 Oxymoron- a phrase where two parts have opposite meanings

## PROCEDURE

1. Third and fourth grade students will read the book, *Punished*, by David Lubar. The book is filled with palindromes, oxymorons, and other types of word play.
2. The teacher will read parts of the following books to students: *Too Hot To Hoot: Funny Palindrome Riddles* by Marvin Terban, *Mom and Dad Are Palindromes* by Mark Shulman and Adam McCauley and *Who Ordered the Jumbo Shrimp? and Other Oxymorons* by Jon Agee.
3. Students will focus on creating one placard. They will choose an oxymoron or palindrome to write and illustrate. After students create the placard, a photograph will be taken as well as a video on Flipgrid. Students will mount the photograph on a piece of colored construction paper.
4. If time permits, students will randomly select a word, phrase, or quote that means something to them. This relates to the 600 people Wearing met on the streets of London and photographed holding signs that held importance to them. Videography and photography will be layered into this assignment if time permits.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will use a self-assessment to reflect upon their placard, photograph, and video.  
 Students will use the "Team-O-Graph" to consider how well they collaborated with their team.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS

### Visual Art

1PR Demonstrate skill and expression in the use of art techniques and processes.  
 3PR Find and solve problems of personal relevance and interest when developing art-making ideas.  
 5PR Show increasing attention to the nuances of elements and principles of design when creating personal works of art.  
 6PR Collaborate with others to create a work of art that addresses an interdisciplinary theme.

### Ohio English/Language Arts

RL.5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors, similes, and idioms.  
 L.4.3a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Students will be reading the novel, *Punished* by David Lubar. The book focuses on all types of word play. Students are connecting the book and vocabulary to Wearing's art project where 600 people in London were photographed holding signs displaying their thoughts about everyday life. Besides language arts and visual arts, students will be using various types of technology- iPads for photography and Flipgrid website on student laptops.

## RESOURCES

*Punished* by David Lubar

"Team-O-Graph" [www.thoughtfulclassroom.com/tools](http://www.thoughtfulclassroom.com/tools)

*Too Hot To Hoot: Funny Palindrome Riddles* by Marvin Terban

*Mom and Dad Are Palindromes* by Mark Shulman and Adam McCauley

*Who Ordered the Jumbo Shrimp? and Other Oxymorons* by Jon Agee



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