

Flights of Imagination

Not all flights happen in airplanes. Some people travel by hot air balloons, blimps, ultra-lights, or in rocketships. Other people jump out of perfectly good airplanes and fly through the sky using a parachute. There is also a magical time when some of us dream or daydream that we can fly. Celebrate these imaginative times by encouraging creative writing.

Books to inspire flights of fantasy

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold. Children will delight in the universal dream of mastering one's world by flying over it. This book is beautiful and its illustrations are an art form that is not familiar to most children (and many adults).

Isla by Arthur Dorros illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Beautiful, magical book full of collages and Spanish phrases. Grandmother shares where she grew up with her grandchild by flying over the village in their imaginations. **Abuela** by Arthur Dorros is another good one to share with your students.



Classroom Story Quilts

You will need:

Paper cut 10" x 10" and 2" x 10"
tagboard cut 18" x 22" and 2" x 2"
old wallpaper books
scissors
glue
pencils, crayons, color pencils, markers

Creative writing idea starters

- * when I look up at the sky I imagine . . .
- * if I could fly up in the sky, I'd . . .
- * when I ride in an airplane . . .
- * one day I grew wings and the adventure began.
- * the day started like any other day. . .
- * looking down from the sky I see . . .
- * loop the moon and over the stars . . .



Read the story *Tar Beach* to your students then let them make their own story quilt.

Have students write their story (it can be in draft form to start) then rewrite it using small neat handwriting on a 2" x 10" strip of paper. Use 2 strips if the story is long.

Once the story is written, have the student decide on an illustration that visually tells their story. This illustration will be the central part of the quilt.

Using markers, crayons, and color pencils have the students draw their illustration on a piece of 10" x 10" paper.

Mount their drawing in the center of a piece of tagboard that has been cut to 18" x 22."

Make a 2" x 2" tagboard pattern for the students to use and have students cut "quilt squares" out of old wallpaper books. Glue these around the center of the quilt and finish the quilt by gluing the story within the quilt border.