

# Discover Art Tour 4: Story & Stitch

## Curriculum Guide

**Department:** Public Engagement

**Prepared by:** Nicole Mangold, [nmangold@allentownartmuseum.org](mailto:nmangold@allentownartmuseum.org)

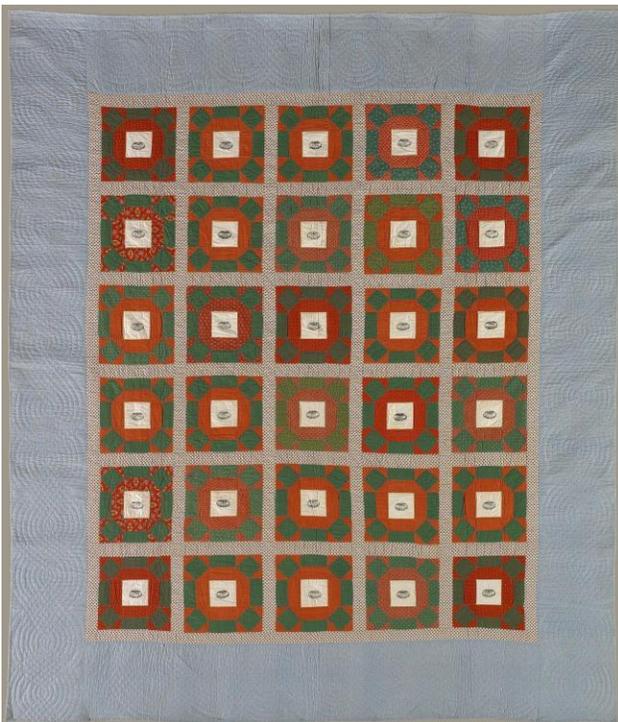
**Prepared for:** 4th Grade Teachers participating in Discover Art

### **Storytelling, Pennsylvania cultural traditions, and Textiles as an Academic Inspiration:**

In this curriculum guide, 4th grade teachers will find information on integrating textile history and Pennsylvania cultural traditions into their Language Arts curriculum. Creating and keeping memories and traditions is important to people across time and throughout many places.

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### **Art Focus: Friendship Quilt**



American, *Friendship Quilt*, ca. 1854-57, cotton plain weave, pieced, quilted, and printed. Gift of Hampton C. Randolph, Sr., 1984. (1984.12.2)

In Discover Art: Story and Stitch, students learn about how artists use fabric to tell stories and keep memories. Friendship Quilts are a Pennsylvania tradition that was very important to the people in their communities. People leaving a community to work or live far from home were often given friendship quilts as a way to remember the people and places that they left behind. Friendship quilts were warm and useful items. Hundreds of years ago, quilts were very expensive and important. They kept people warm at night before electricity heated homes. Friendship quilts were created out of a pattern of different shapes. Each quilt square, or piece of the pattern would be a name or message of a person. A Friendship Quilt is very much like a yearbook, a birthday card, or a photo album. The tradition of Friendship Quilts helped people remember a part of their history. People have used both art and writing to communicate and share for hundreds of years.

## Standards:

- **Standard - 9.2.5.D:** Analyze a work of art from its historical and cultural perspective.
- **Standard - CC.1.2.4.C:** Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- **Standard - CC.1.3.4.A:** Determine a theme of a text from details in the text; summarize the text.

## Big Ideas

Artists use art to share stories and keep memories.

Artists use both art and writing when they create.

Traditions are important and worth remembering.

## Points of Inquiry

How do Artists share stories and keep memories alive through making art?

How can Artists use images and writing when they create?

How does art help us remember the past and keep traditions?

## Vocabulary

Textile  
Tradition  
Culture

Storytelling  
Quilt  
Friendship Quilt

## Resources and Further Learning:

- Gain inspiration to make a paper story quilt wall inspired by a book reading with this lesson by Scholastic: [Reading Response Book Quilts](#)
- Visit the [Pa. German Heritage Center](#) to learn more about virtual events and programs.
- Learn about math, science, engineering and technology as you explore the [Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#).
- [Explore](#) a variety of different content from the State Museum of Pennsylvania, including videos on dinosaurs, animals, historical crafts, state seasons, and nature.

## Classroom Activity

*Complete this activity after watching Discover Art: Story & Stitch and completing a personal quilt square.*

Look at these images of quilt squares with your students and ask the following questions.



### **Describe, Analyze, Interpret:**

- What do you notice about this quilt square?
- What kinds of colors, patterns, and images do you see?
- Why would an artist want to make this quilt? What story does it tell?

### **Background for Students:**

These pictures show different Friendship quilts and quilt squares. Before electricity made houses warm at night, people had quilts. Quilts were once some of the most expensive and valuable things that people owned. Because quilts were important, the artists that made them wanted to make them beautiful and unique. The colors, patterns, shapes and pictures on these quilts tell a story. Friendship quilts were often gifts that helped the owner remember important memories from the past.

### **Create:**

Read *Grandmother's Parlor* by Priscilla Schrock and answer the following questions on the worksheet below.

## Read and Respond

After reading the poem, respond to the questions below.

I remember the quilt, made with loving care,  
Draped over the back of her favorite chair,  
In my Grandmother's parlor.

A quilt full of pictures, a quilt full of love,  
With birds stitched in gold, seen flying above,  
In my Grandmother's parlor.

Made with purples and reds and colors so bright,  
The browns and the greens and even some white,  
In my Grandmother's parlor.

As I sat on the floor my fingers would glide,  
Tracing designs over threads narrow and wide,  
In my Grandmother's parlor.

I would give all I have for a chance to be there,  
In my Grandmother's lap, in her favorite chair,  
In my Grandmother's parlor.

-Grandmother's Parlor, By Priscilla Schrock

What is this poem about? Summarize it.

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What emotions does this poem make you feel?

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How can you tell that this poem is about a memory? What words let you know?

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How did the author feel about the quilt?

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