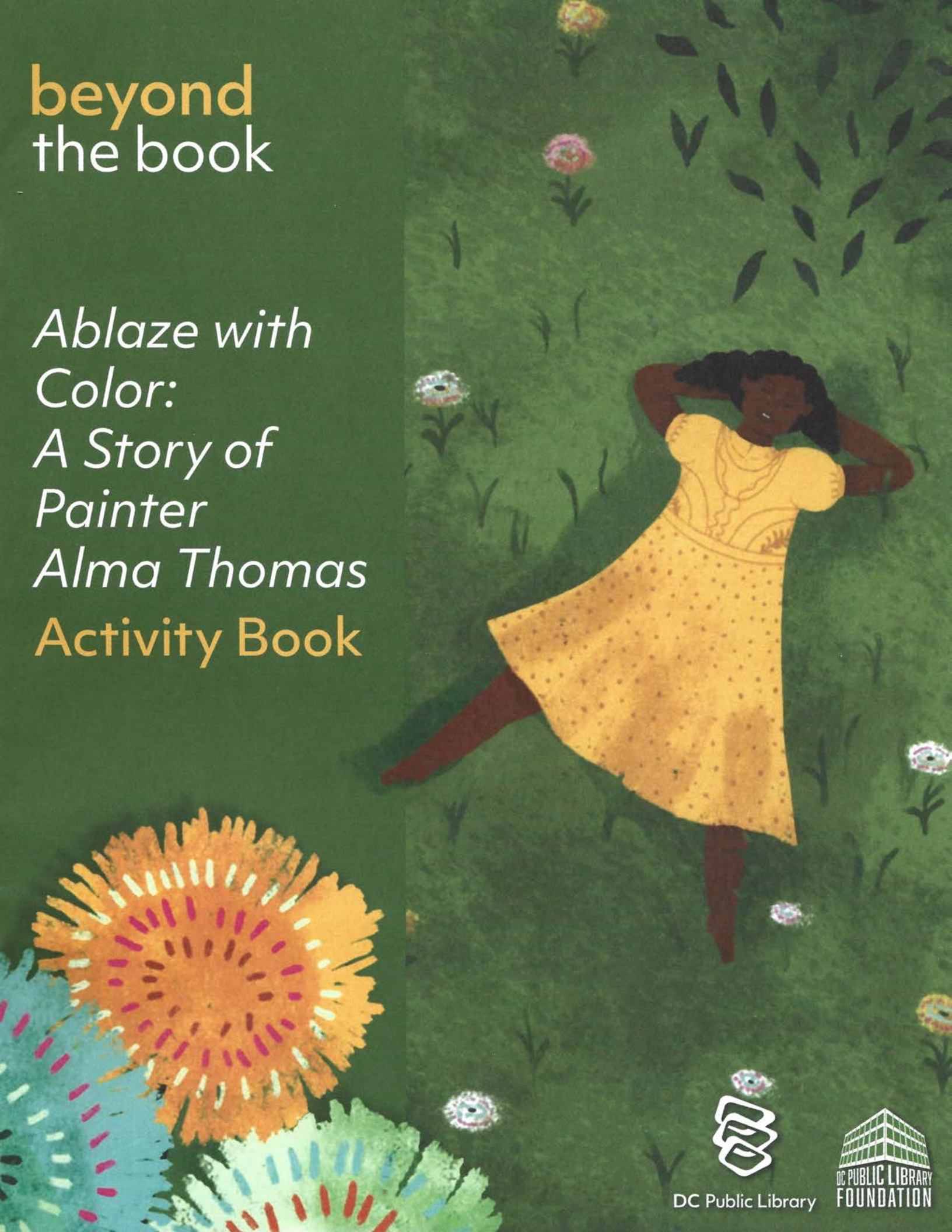


beyond
the book

*Ablaze with
Color:
A Story of
Painter
Alma Thomas*
Activity Book



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Vocabulary Words

Learning new words is important for developing reading skills.

Read the words and definitions below and practice using them in a sentence.

1. Quiver — to move with a slight shaking motion

2. Bask — to lie or relax in a pleasant warmth or atmosphere

3. Creativity — the ability to make or invent something original or imaginative

4. Injustice — violation of the right or rights of another

5. Exhibit — to show or display

6. Marionette — a puppet whose arms and legs are worked with strings or wires

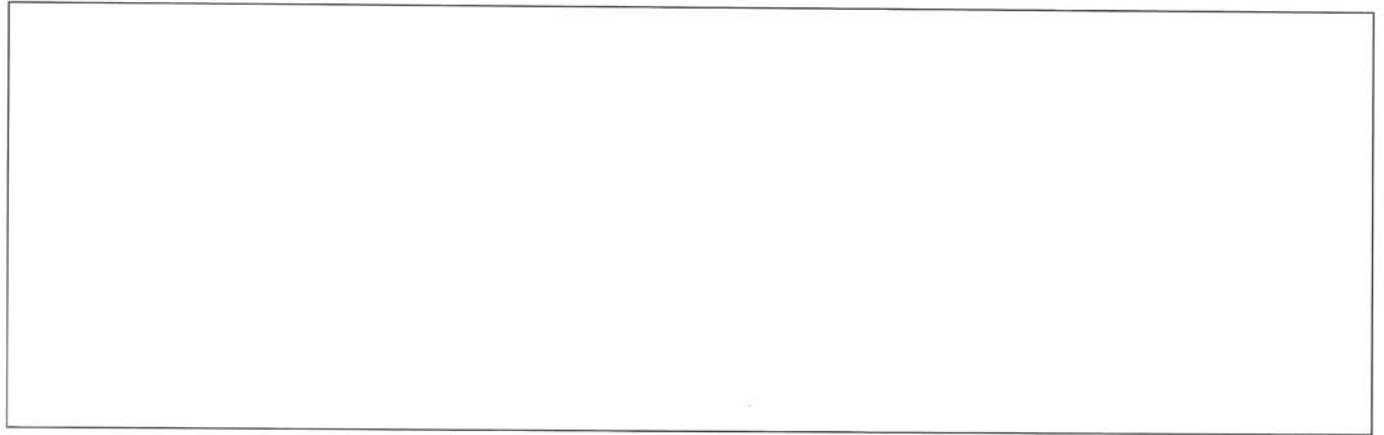
7. Inspire — to cause to happen

8. Devote — to give to a purpose; dedicate



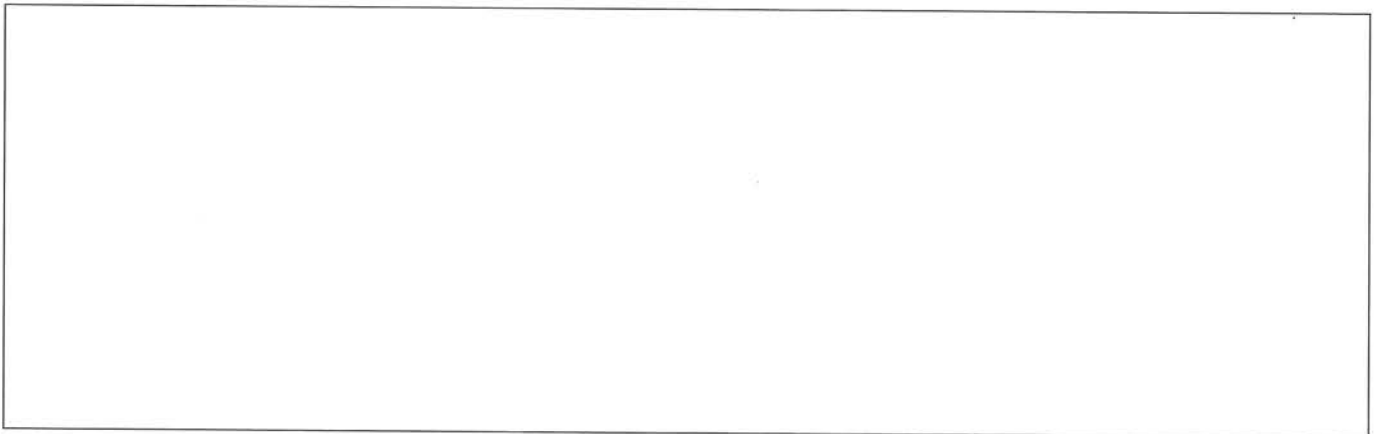
Alma's Inspirations

Alma's artwork was inspired by nature and space travel. Think about what inspires you to create. Create your own inspired drawing and write a sentence below about the things that inspire you to be artistic.



Colors and Emotions

Alma Thomas once said, "Through color, I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness, rather than on man's inhumanity to man." She used color to focus on the good. Take a moment to look at the colors you see. Identify how each color makes you feel and write the word next to the color.



From the South to the North

Alma's family moved from the South to the North, right here in Washington, D.C.

Compare Alma's life in the South to her life in the North, then answer the questions below.

North

South

What was Alma's age? _____

Where did she live? _____

What inspired her? _____

What did Alma enjoy about living in the South? _____

Why did Alma's family leave the South? _____

What injustices did Alma also experience in the North? _____



Comprehension Questions

How did Alma differ from her sisters? _____

What did Alma study in college? _____

How did Alma turn her home into a learning community? _____

At what age did Alma focus on her own art? _____

Why do you think space inspired Alma? _____

Name a location where Alma's work was displayed. _____

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Alma as a Teacher

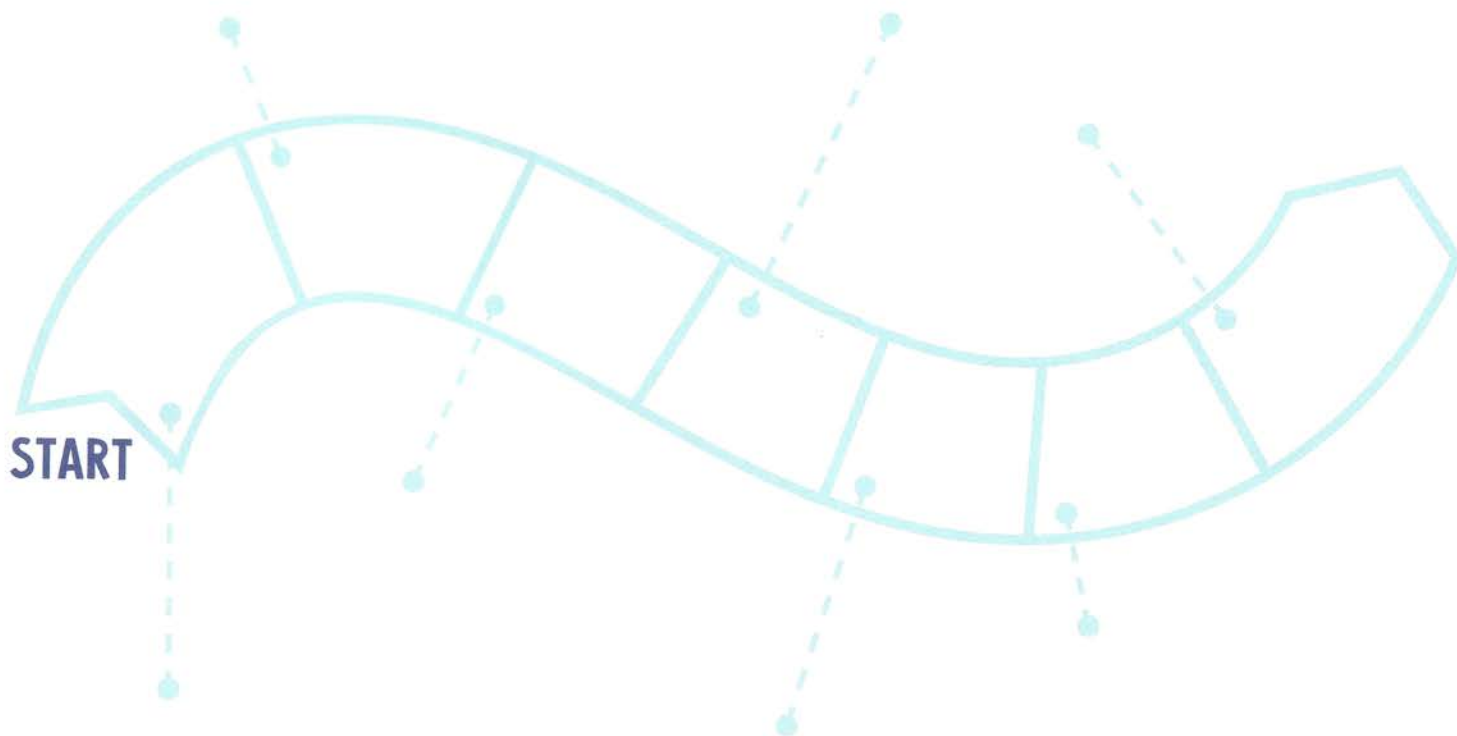
To increase access to art for the children of D.C., Alma Thomas hosted classes in her living room and took children on field trips to art galleries.

Why do you think Alma worked to expose children to art? _____

If you were a teacher, what would you teach? _____

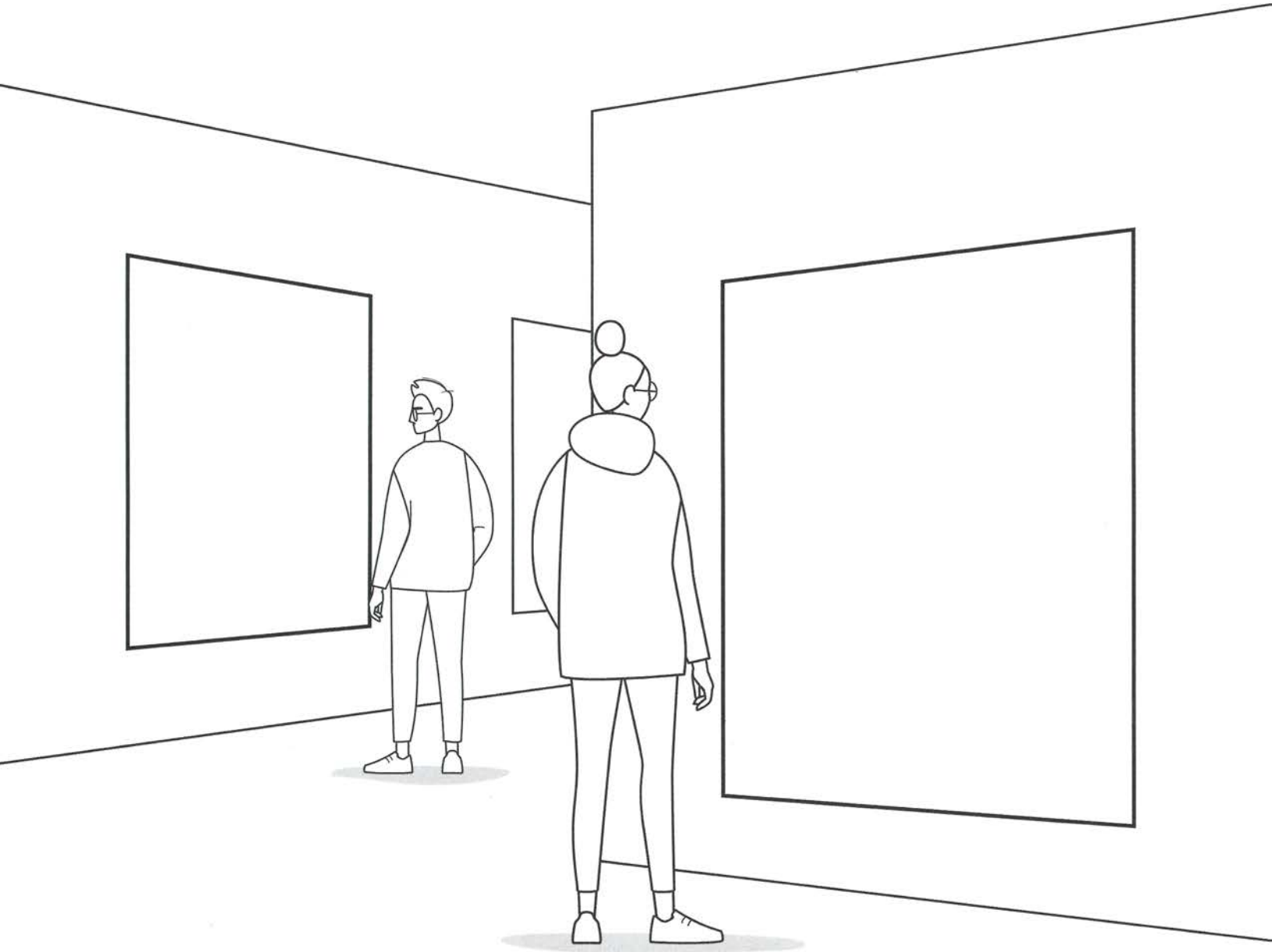
Your Timeline

At the very back of the book there is a timeline of Alma's life with important historical dates. It starts with her birthdate. Fill out a timeline of your life and include important facts and dates.



My Own Art Gallery

Alma Thomas' work is featured in art galleries around the world. Design your own art gallery. What kind of art would you show?



Create a Colorful Masterpiece Like Alma

Cut out some of the illustrations from *Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas* and create your own masterpiece like Alma Thomas.



Recommended Resources

Suggested Reading

beyond
the book



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- ***The Artist*** by Nikkolas Smith

When a young boy realizes the scope of inequities in the wider world, he's seized with the urge to do more. He decides to bring together the different parts of himself—the artist and the activist—to become . . . an Artist. After his mural goes viral, he sets out to change the world one painting at a time.

- ***All Around Us***

by Xelena González, illustrated by Adriana Garcia

Grandpa says circles are all around us. He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come. "Can you see? That's only half of the circle. That rest of it is down below, in the earth." He and his granddaughter meditate on gardens and seeds, on circles seen and unseen, inside and outside us, on where our bodies come from and where they return to. They share and create family traditions in this stunning exploration of the cycles of life and nature.

- ***Faith Ringgold: Narrating the World in Pattern and Color*** by Sharna Jackson, illustrated by Andrea Pippins

In *What the Artist Saw: Faith Ringgold*, meet inspiring American activist Faith Ringgold. Step into her life and learn what led her to mix different media and craft powerful stories into quilts. Travel with her from Harlem, New York, to Europe, Ghana, and Nigeria. Pick a cause that you care about and try combining it with fabric or sculpture to make your own artworks!

- ***The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art***

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary GrandPré

Vasya Kandinsky was a proper little boy: he studied math and history, he practiced the piano, he sat up straight and was perfectly polite. And when his family sent him to art classes, they expected him to paint pretty houses and flowers—like a proper artist. But as Vasya opened his paint box and began mixing the reds, the yellows, the blues, he heard a strange sound—the swirling colors trilled like an orchestra tuning up for a symphony! And as he grew older, he continued to hear brilliant colors singing and see vibrant sounds dancing. But was Vasya brave enough to put aside his proper still lifes and portraits and paint . . . music?

- ***Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott***

by Joyce Scott, Brie Spangler, Melissa Sweet
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Judith Scott was born with Down syndrome. She was deaf, and never learned to speak. She was also a talented artist. Judith was institutionalized until her sister Joyce reunited with her and enrolled her in an art class. Judith went on to become an artist of renown, with her work displayed in museums and galleries around the world.

- ***Anna At the Art Museum***

by Hazel Hutchins and Gail Herbert

Going to the art museum with her mom is no fun at all for Anna. Everything is old and boring, and there are so many rules: Don't Touch! Do Not Enter! Quiet! A vigilant guard keeps a close eye on the energetic little girl, but even so, Anna manages to set off an alarm and almost tip over a vase. A half-open door draws Anna's attention, but the No Entry sign means yet again that it's off-limits. This time, however, the guard surprises her by inviting her to go in. Here she finds a "secret workshop" where paintings are being cleaned and repaired. Staring out from one of the canvases is a girl who looks grumpy and bored—just like Anna herself. With the realization that art often imitates life, Anna discovers the sheer joy to be had from the paintings on the wall, especially those that reflect what is happening all around her.

- ***Princess Arabella at The Museum*** by Mylo Freeman

Princess Arabella and her friends go to the museum. There are works of different artists exhibited: some are big, and others are small. In some works, you can lose yourself, and others make you smile. Then the children want to go home. Why? Because they want to make their own works of art!

- ***Oh, Olive!*** by Lian Cho

Presenting Olive Chen! The most magnificent and brilliant artist in the whole wide world! Her parents are also artists—serious artists—who paint prim, proper, perfect shapes. They know Olive has the talent to follow in their footsteps. But Olive likes to smear, splatter, splash, and even lick. With a brush in each hand, Olive cascades through town with her friends in tow, painting what she wants to, what she feels—until she reaches her parents' pristine art museum.



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Beyond the Book is a library literacy project that supports developing readers aged 5–8 to become successful and joyful readers. Beyond the Book is made possible through the generous support of the DC Public Library Foundation.

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