

## TEACHER'S CORNER – MAY 2016

### USING ART IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

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I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way — things I had no words for.

~Georgia O'Keeffe

O'Keeffe might have been speaking about her own struggles communicating, but what she says gets to the heart of the challenges English language learners (ELLs) face on a daily basis. English language learners often work hard to communicate within the narrow parameters of a second language. Art, in its many forms including music, visual arts, poetry, drama, and film, provides an opportunity for ELLs to overcome some of their communication challenges. Whether teachers use art as part of meaning-making activities for learners or as ways to support language acquisition, art can be a fun and valuable addition to the language classroom.

In this month's Teacher's Corner, we will offer some ways to incorporate art into the English language classroom with a new activity each week. As we progress through the month, remember that art not only allows for creativity among learners, but also can be structured and incorporated into lessons to complement and supplement language learning objectives. These activities are designed for teachers to easily incorporate art into the English language classroom.