Mini Art Lesson:
*Baleen Whale Mask*

This Mini Art Lesson honors Native American history and culture through the work of the Kwakwaka’wakw—Indigenous peoples in the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States. This *mask* tells the story of why whales live deep in the ocean and involves a strong, persistent whale character. In this lesson, kids ages 2–6 will use their favorite tale to create a story “chain,” while kids ages 7 and up will craft their own paper puppets.

**FOR AGES 2–6: LET’S PLAY**

The Kwakwaka’wakw whale mask was likely worn along the back of a chief, covering their entire body. In the spirit of this, we’ll be creating a story chain for your child to wear.

**Step 1:** Talk to your child about their favorite story. For this lesson, Chloe chose *Dear Girl* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jason Rosenthal, and her younger brother, Davis, chose *Where Oliver Fits* by Cale Atkinson. (A)

**Step 2:** Discuss the story’s main events and have your child retell them by drawing individual scenes. (B)

**Step 3:** Arrange the drawings from top to bottom, in chronological order, and then tape the story together in that sequence. (C)
FOR AGES 2–6:
LET’S PLAY (cont.)

Step 4: Have your child wear the chain of drawings along their back, and then tell the story back to your child using their pictures as a visual. (D)

Thanks to Maria, Chloe, and Davis for their help on this project! We hope you enjoyed your stories and artworks as much as we did. (E)
FOR AGES 7+:
LET’S CREATE

Step 1: Think of a story that means a lot to you. Do you have a favorite book? Or a story from your family? For this lesson, we’ll be using the Kwakwaka’wakw origin story.

Step 2: Make a list of all the characters in the story. (A)

Step 3: Sketch out what these characters look like on paper and color them in. (B)

Step 4: Cut out your drawings so each character is on its own sheet of paper. (C)

Step 5: Roll up a new piece of paper and tape it so it stays rolled up. You can also use Popsicle sticks or cardboard to hold up your puppet.

Step 6: Tape your paper or stick to the back of your character. (D)

Step 7: Now, put on a puppet show to tell your story! (E)