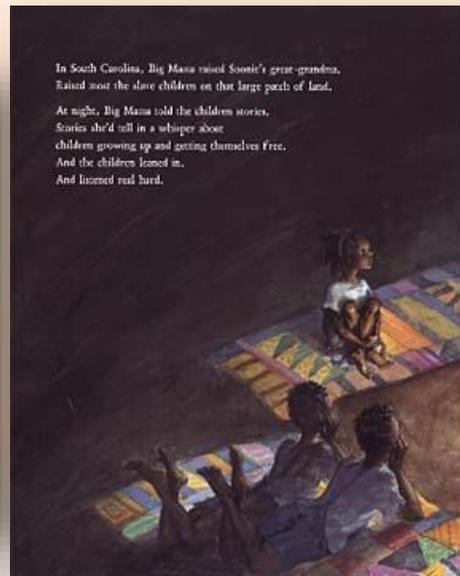
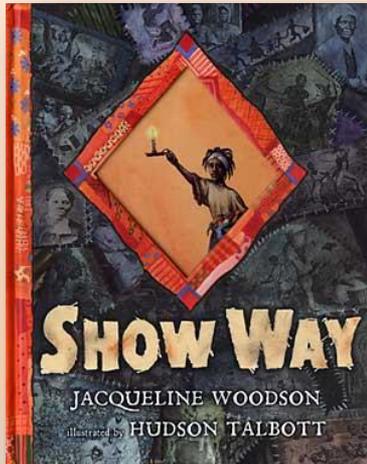


First Graders Create Quilts Honoring  
Artist, Author and Activist  
Faith Ringgold

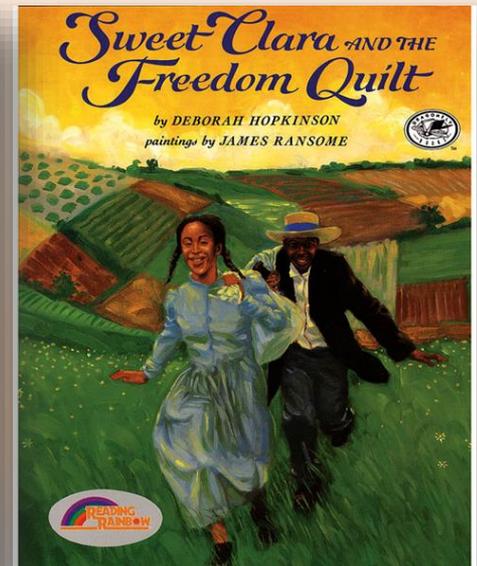
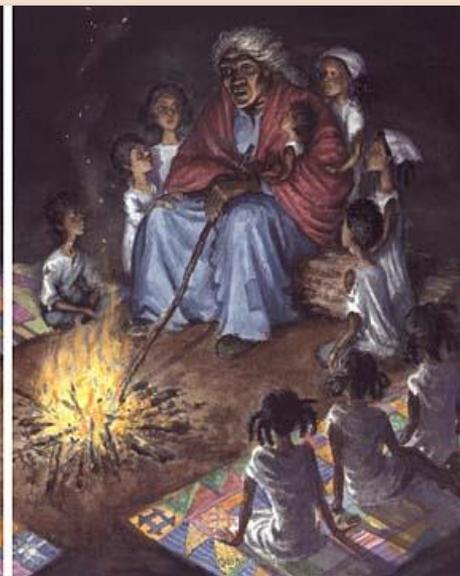
Spotlight on Program

March 1, 2017

Each year, in art, Duzine students create works that are inspired by African-American Art. A recent theme over the last several years has been on the heritage of African-American quilting. In the past, students have looked at Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson and Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson, which illustrate how quilting helped slaves follow the Underground Railroad.



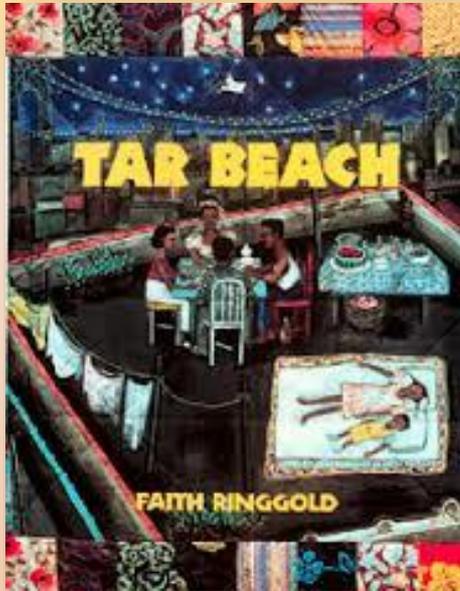
In South Carolina, Big Mama raised Soonie's great-grandma,  
Raised most the slave children on that large patch of land.  
At night, Big Mama told the children stories,  
Stories she'd tell in a whisper about  
children growing up and getting themselves free,  
And the children learned in,  
And listened real hard.



This year's focus was on the work of Faith Ringgold. She created the idea of Story Quilts, narrative paintings, which mix pieced fabric, paint and text to tell a story.



We listened to her narrate Tar Beach, which was adapted from the story quilt. It received the Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Award.



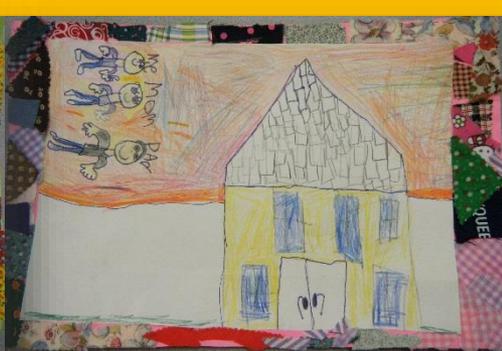
In Tar Beach, the artist paints on quilted fabric to communicate her experiences as a young African-American girl growing up in NYC.



She dreams of flying over the roof tops and the places that make her feel happiest.

*"It's very easy, anyone can fly. All you need is somewhere to go that you can't get to any other way. The next thing you know, you're flying among the stars."* (Faith Ringgold)





The children created drawings after imagining that they could fly. And like Faith Ringgold, they used pieces of fabric as a border.





Tonight you will see examples of the quilts that Ms. King's First Graders designed inspired by Tar Beach and the magic of their imagination!

