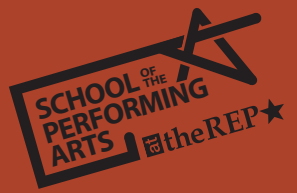


## Virtual Story Hour with theREP Activity for Grades 3-5



### A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant

LEARNING STANDARD QUESTION: What specific details from the text tell you where and when the story takes place?

**Possible Responses** → The story starts in Pennsylvania; moves to Goshen, NY; then moves to France during the war; and then to West Chester, NY – all places mentioned by the author; Part of the story takes place in school – when Horace was a young student, in the story we learn that he liked to draw (all the time), even on the margins of his spelling papers at school – which his teacher did not care for; Part of the story takes place at his families home – where he helped his mother get things like flour, helped his sisters with the laundry, helped out by watching his baby brother, and even helped the milk man by holding onto his horse when he delivered the milk; Part of the story takes place in Germany and France, During WWI – the pictures that Illustrator Melissa Sweet drew, along with the text written by Jen Bryant tell us this – ie: “The war brought out all the art in me.” | “He joined the army and sailed away.” | “If the fighting stopped for a while, Horace put down his gun and picked up a pencil.”; Many parts of the story take place “at the drawing board” – wherever Horace was, physically, at the time, he’d sit down and draw.

#### ACTIVITY: Drawing!

**Version 1:** Horace drew on his life experiences to create his pictures. The story even mentions how he specifically drew on his experiences during World War I. Now it’s your turn. Draw a picture of an experience you’ve had – a real one. ie: your first day of school; when a younger sibling was born; playing a sport you love; etc.

**Version 2:** Draw your own version of the Acme Art Supplies – “Draw Me!” – Contest picture, the same one that Horace drew as a child. (Image below.)

*\*Teachers are encouraged to hang the art up around the room and hold a classroom (or all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes) art exhibit.*

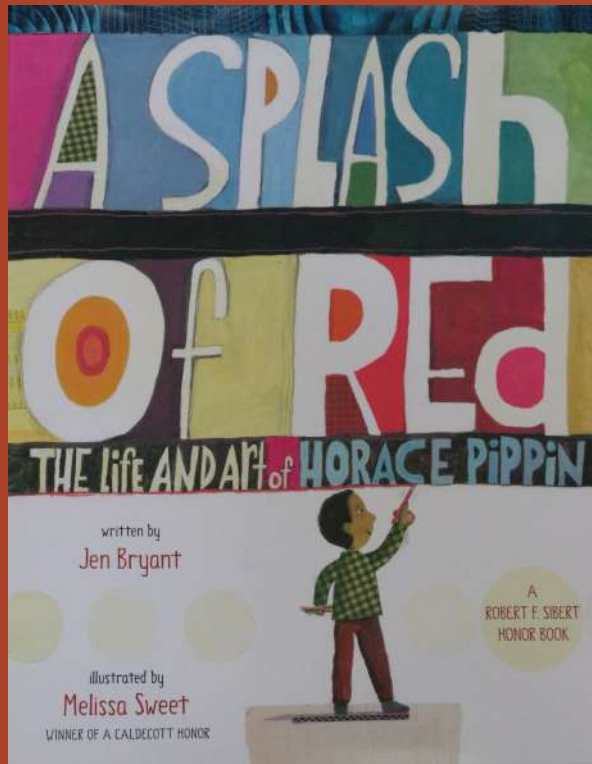
MATERIALS NEEDED: The Acme Art Supplies “Draw Me” picture (below); Paper & Pencils/Colored Pencils

#### AT HOME LEARNERS:

Students learning at home are encouraged to do both versions.

#### SHARE YOUR CREATION!

theREP would love teachers and or students to share photos of students watching story hour and or of their art work. Photos (letters or drawings) can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at [mhall@capitalrep.org](mailto:mhall@capitalrep.org)



One day, Horace saw a funny face in a magazine.  
DRAW ME! AND WIN A PRIZE, it said underneath.  
Horace drew the face and sent it off.



## HISTORICAL NOTE

**HORACE PIPPIN** was born on George Washington's birthday, February 22, in the year 1888. Though he showed an early talent for making art, he didn't complete his first oil painting until he was more than forty years old. Even after his work was discovered and promoted by such notables as painter and illustrator N. C. Wyeth, critic Christian Brinton, collector Albert Barnes, and art dealer Robert Carlen, Pippin remained true to his own creative process. When someone asked the self-taught artist about his work method, he replied: "I paint it . . . exactly the way I see it."

Fighting in the trenches of World War I proved to be a pivotal experience for the young Pippin. Scenes from those brutal battles haunted him upon his return home, where he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) and, later, the Purple Heart (for his battle wound) by the United States. He undertook his first adult painting, *The End of the War: Starting Home* (which took him nearly three



years to complete), as a kind of physical and psychological therapy. "It brought me back to my old self," he later told a friend. Through daily practice and gritty determination, he gradually regained some of the control he had lost in his injured right arm.

A curious and observant man, Pippin found his subjects almost everywhere. He produced roughly 140 works of art based on childhood memories, family stories, historical reports, photographs, movies, current events, and biblical Scriptures, as well as his own West Chester, Pennsylvania, neighborhood. Pippin's masterful use of color, form, and composition (how the elements of a picture are arranged) is considered his greatest artistic strength.

Today, museums in Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Wichita, Buffalo, Charleston, and other cities proudly display the work of Horace Pippin. He has been variously labeled a folk artist, a self-taught artist, and a primitive painter—but he is certainly and indisputably an American master.