

## Art A Day CHALLENGE: We Art Family...

### Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day during school closures! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE. The order you complete the challenges is up to you!

**Stuff you'll need:** Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea!

### Words you need to know:

**Portrait:** An artistic representation of a person. This can include a painting, drawing, photograph, sculpture.

When you look at a portrait you think "this is a picture of mainly a person".

**Symbol:** An object, animal or plant that stands for something else like an idea, a force of nature, a career- or even a life story.

**LOOK** at this painting. We see a woman and a little girl wearing nice clothes. This portrait was done by the first African American portrait artist, Joshua Johnson. He was born a slave but became a free man and a famous portrait artist. Often, well-to-do families in Baltimore, MD paid Johnson to paint their families. Sometimes, he would even include symbols in his paintings. Notice the woman is holding a book and the young girl is holding what looks like roses. These objects must have meant something very special to the family. What could you use to symbolize your values and memories? What do you think the book and roses meant to this family?

**THINK** about you and your family. What is important to you? What kind of values do you hold close? Could this book be something special? Does your family have a special book that you share together? A long time ago, people used flowers to send messages. Below is a link that has examples of how flowers symbolized messages and feelings.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/flower-meanings-language-flowers>

**MAKE** a portrait of you and your family (or people you are close to). In this portrait, include symbols that connect you to each other. You could use flowers as symbols to send a message to the viewer or maybe you will include a religious book that connects your beliefs. Maybe you share a sport or music or a love for animals or the forest. Every family is unique. How can you express this uniqueness?

Do you need a little help with the technical parts of the portrait? Check out these links

Younger artists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXIO6ocidiY>

Older artists: <https://www.format.com/magazine/resources/illustration/portrait-drawing>

**Writing Prompt Extension:** Complete this sentence: My family connects through\_\_\_\_\_. Next, describe how you are each different in your own way.



Joshua Johnson  
American

*Portrait of Susanna Amos Yoe and  
Daughter Mary Elizabeth Yoe, 1809*

Oil on Canvas