

First grade Great Changer portraits and poetry will be on exhibit at the A.P.E. Gallery at 126 Main Street in Northampton from January 30 through February 6.



Rachel Carlson

A Sea Explorer

Looking at fossils
She loved nature
Studied things from the sea
Walking along the edge of the sea
Swish swish
She loved nature
Was Rachel lonely?
She was interested in a lot

Students in the first grade classes at the Smith College Campus School engage in an in-depth study of Great Changers, individuals who have worked for social change through non-violent means. Whether they were listening to stories of Barack Obama, Martin Luther King or Eleanor Roosevelt, students were captivated by the idea of change in our world. Motivated by their interests, students began an integrated Writer's Workshop activity which encompassed themes of social justice and the use of their writer's voice to draw attention to important social issues. They were involved in whole group discussions and in conversations with their 5th grade reading buddies and their families as they continued their exploration of social justice. Students used picture books to learn about various individuals who worked non-violently for change in the United States and then chose a favorite Great Changer and created artwork to represent that person. Using picture books, black and white photos and black fine-line markers, the students captured the essence of their Great Changers in portrait form. They finished their creations with oil crayons and cu-paper collage clothing.

Having developed an understanding of their Great Changer through picture book stories and artwork, students then shared what they had learned about their Great Changers through poetry. Supported by several mini lessons, students used powerful words and comparison to grab their readers' attention and exercised their writer's voice to highlight their Great Changer's inspiring story. As a culmination to their study of Great Changers, note cards featuring the first graders' Great Changer portraits and poems will

be created and sold. Money raised by the sale of cards will go toward commissioning an artist to create a piece representing Great Changers that can inspire the Great Changer in all of us.

The artwork and poems created by our first graders will be on display at the A.P.E. Gallery, 126 Main Street in Northampton, from January 30 through February 6. Accompanying the portraits and poems will be a recording of the students reading their poems. Order forms for cards will be available at the A.P.E. Gallery during the exhibition and at the Campus School through February 12. The cards will be available early to mid March. They will be delivered to the A.P.E. Gallery at that time, and those who ordered cards at the Gallery will be notified and may pick them up there. Cards ordered at the Campus School should be picked up at the school.



Alvin Ailey

The Boy who Loved Dancing

Alvin Ailey
African American
When did you know you were going to dance?
Show life by dance
Tap tap tap go his feet on the dance floor
Brave
As strong as a tiger
True Vine Baptist Church
Show life by dance
Interested in dancing



Rosa Parks

Said 'NO' to the police
As good as a cat
Rosa went on the bus
Said 'NO' to the police
Didn't go on the bus for a long time
How determined was she?
Vrooooooooooom went the bus