

# Hands-On History

Activities to engage young learners with history.

## The Fourth Grade Project

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**WHAT'S THE LAST PICTURE YOU TOOK?** If you have a phone or a tablet, you might take many pictures every day. Personally, the last picture I took was a selfie of my brother and me on our morning walk, and my phone is full of photographs of my family, my friends, and my cats.

When we take a picture, we know its story; we know who or what is in it, what is happening, who took the picture, and why. When we look at a photograph taken by someone else, we can try to guess the answers to those questions.

A portrait is a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person. This Spring at the Washington State History Museum, you can see many portraits of kids from around the world in an exhibition called *The Fourth Grade Project*.

Here is one picture from *The Fourth Grade Project*. What are some of the first things you notice about this photo?

Judy Gelles, the photographer who made these portraits, traveled the world talking to fourth graders. She asked them three questions: Who do you live with? What do you wish for? What do you worry about?

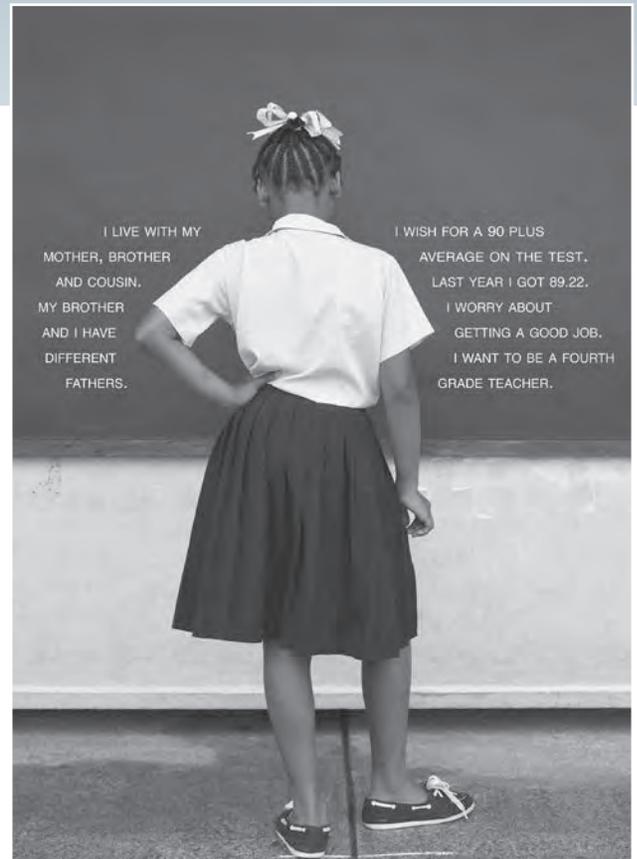
Can you tell how the fourth grader in this photo answered Judy's three questions? What do you notice about the answers?

If you were a part of *The Fourth Grade Project*, how would you answer those three questions?

Judy could have just interviewed students around the world, but she also took their photo. Why do you think she did that?

Photos can help us record and understand the present and learn about the past. The next time you take a picture, or look at a picture, ask yourself: What story does this photo tell?

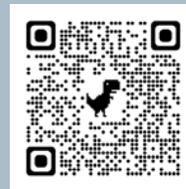
To see more photos and stories from *The Fourth Grade Project*, visit the museum now through May 25, and check out The Fourth Grade Project website at <https://fourthgradeproject.com/>.



### What story do you think this photo helps tell?

Judy Gelles, *St. Lucia Portrait*, St. Lucia, Public School, 2015; digital print on Diabond; 40 x 30 inches, Courtesy of Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia.

**DID YOU KNOW** that a WSHS family membership is only \$75 for a year? Visit the museum as many times as you like! Check [www.WashingtonHistory.org/membership](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org/membership) or scan the QR code for details.



**DID YOU HELP YOUR CHILD ANSWER THE THREE QUESTIONS?** Feel free to share their responses and tag us on Instagram @washingtonhistory and #4thgradeproject.