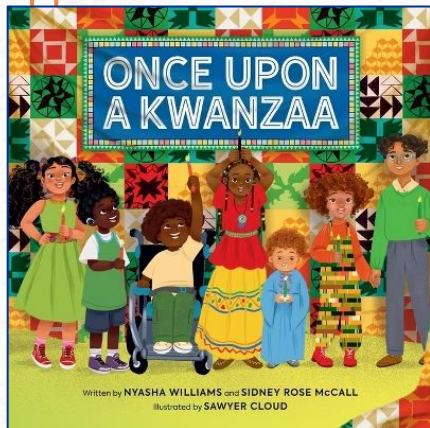


Children's Book Festival Educator Resource



"Family Handprint Art Project"

Developed by Fifi Smith, Ruby Trione, and Anthony Rondinelli for CU Boulder's Children's Book Festival 2025, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons, Available at colorado.edu/event/bookfest

Grade and Colorado Academic Standard

- **Grade Level** : 2nd Grade
- **Content Area** : Visual Arts
- **Colorado Academic Standards Information**
 - **Standard** : Invent and Discover to Create
 - **Grade Level Expectation:** Plan and create works of art by exploring various media and creating meaning through symbolization
 - **Evidence Outcome:** Synthesize ways to symbolize ideas in original and surprising ways in works of art and design



Colorado Academic Standard Information retrieved from

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>

View the full standards at

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>





Family Handprint Art Project

After reading *Once Upon a Kwanzaa*, the students will discuss the theme of family and the importance of community. Each student will put their handprint on a piece of paper, draw a picture of their family inside the handprint, and write a few things that are important to them to represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa. This project makes connections to the story by emphasizing how important family, community, and connection is during Kwanzaa, while allowing students to express their creativity and uniqueness.

This will be an individual project where each student makes their own handprint.



Materials



Washable paint



Construction or
printer paper



Crayons



Markers



Step by step directions



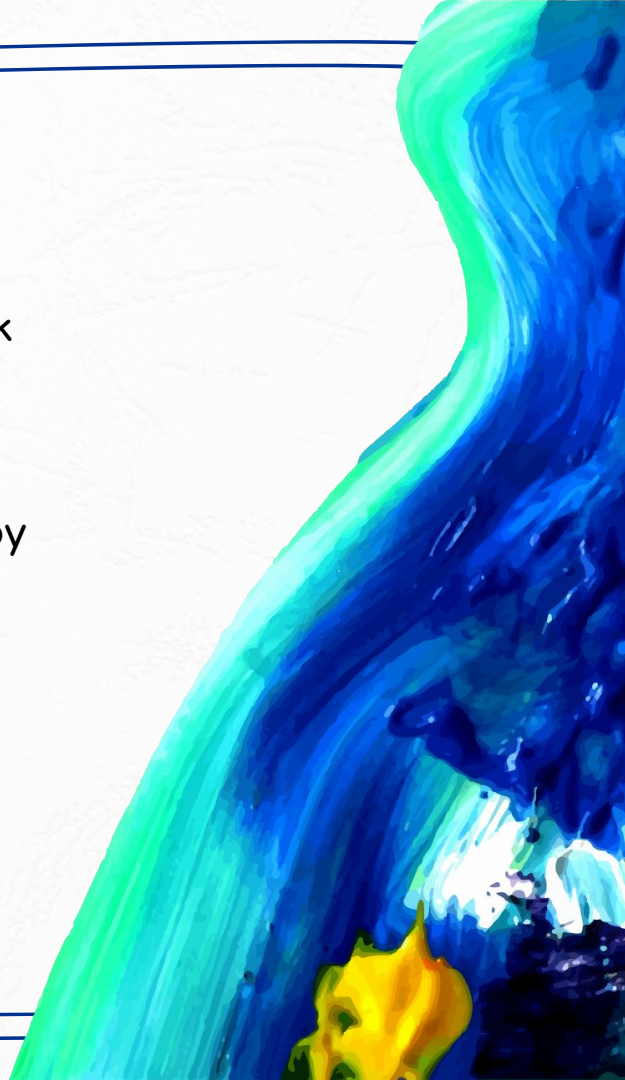
Read the story *Once Upon A Kwanzaa* and ask the students to think about their family and what is important to them.



Once you've finished reading the story, start by handing out a piece of paper and some paint and have the students put their hand print on the piece of paper.



Let it dry for a couple of hours (or a day) and then come back to it



Step by step directions (cont.)



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Ask the students to draw what their family looks like in the hand print and have them include something that is special and important to them. Give them examples of things that are important to you so they can get an idea of what they may include.



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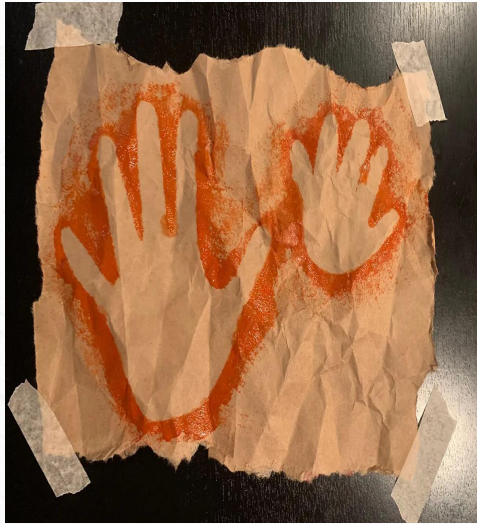
Ask students to create a drawing using markers or crayons that represents what makes them unique and highlights what makes their family special to them. Around the fingers, they can add drawings or words to represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa and how it relates to their own family or community.



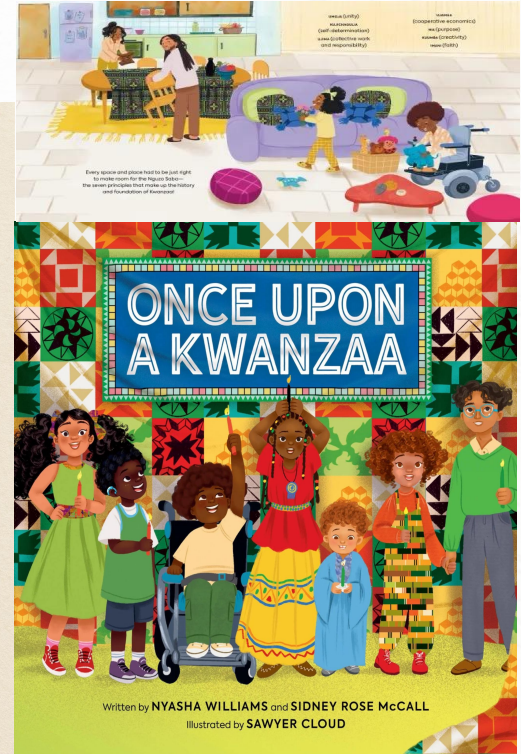
6

Once completed have the students come into a circle and share their artwork. Have them share with their classmates what they decided to add to their hand and why it's important to them.

Final Product Example



F A M I L Y



Final Thoughts

We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Nyasha Williams and hear more about *Once Upon a Kwanzaa* in-person...along with other authors and illustrators!

For more information, visit

[https://www.colorado.edu/event/
bookfest](https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest)

The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the

2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library



**SALINA
YOON**



**NYASHA
WILLIAMS**



**DENISE
VEGA**



**PAM
MUÑOZ RYAN**



**RITA
WILLIAMS-GARCIA**



**SHAREE
MILLER**

Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

 **Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.**
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)



See the schedule & register:
colorado.edu/event/bookfest

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