

Honorees: Marie and Willie Van Brailey

Grade Level: 3-5

Subject: Theatre

Introductory Statement: The Braileys are a famous family of furniture builders and folk artists from South Carolina. Layering strips of cane in patterns creates their caned bottom chairs. The concepts of pattern and layering are important elements in a piece of theatre, both aurally and visually.

SC Standards Addressed:

T4-3.1 Analyze stories, scripts, and performances to identify essential technical elements.

T4-3.2 Design and use simple technical elements to enhance dramatic presentations.

Goals/Objectives: To create a soundscape for theatre-layering sound with texture and pattern.

Items/Materials Needed: *Rootabaga Stories* by Carl Sandburg, or similar folk literature texts. Photographs of the Brailey's chairs and other visual art works that involve layered patterns. Copy of Laurie Berkner's *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*

Steps/Strategies: Compare visual patterns with aural patterns in artwork. The teacher will share the photographs of the Brailey's artwork and other patterned visual art and discuss the layers involved in creating the final work.

Activity One: Using a graphic organizer, the students will compare the layers in chair caning to the aural layers in *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* song.

Activity Two: Students will read a story from *Rootabaga Stories* by Carl Sandburg. Students should be divided into groups and asked to create a live "sound-scape" by making and repeating sounds that might be heard in a particular environment described in the stories. The sound-scape will be presented in layers, with one student presenting and repeating their sound pattern, with the addition of each successive student's sound pattern until a fully textured sound-scape is created. Class will discuss and peers assess the work of each group, with teacher guidance.