



The Artist

Jean-Michel Basquiat

4th, 6th, 8th

www.biography.com/.amp/people/jean-michel-basquiat-185851



4th Haiti and Puerto Rico

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/rq.html>

6th Symbolism

<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/new-york/articles/the-art-of-jean-michel-basquiat-legacy-of-a-cultural-icon/>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/Symbolism-literary-and-artistic-movement>

8th Graffiti

http://csdt.rpi.edu/subcult/graffiti/Graffiti_History.html

Jean-Michel Basquiat

(1960-1988)

Black King Catch Scorpio
(1981)

The Artwork:

“Black King Catch Scorpio” (1981)

<http://k8charterschool.com/art-title-untitled-black-king-catch-scorpio/>

Connecting to Standards

- 4.RN.2.3, 4.W.6.1
- 6.RN.2.3, 6.RV.3.3, 6.W.3.3
- 8.RN.3.3, 8.W.3.1

Writing Prompts

4TH Grade: Jean-Michel Basquiat was born to a Haitian father, and Brooklyn-raised mother of Puerto-Rican parentage. This multi-cultural upbringing meant that by the age of 11 Basquiat was able to read, write and speak fluently in French, Spanish and English. Read the two articles about Haiti and Puerto Rico. What influence do you think either of these locations and their culture had on the art created by Basquiat?

6th Grade: Part One: Read the article about the history behind the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and study the painting “Black King Scorpio”. Which elements of his personal life do you see glimpses of in the painting? Provide textual evidence and specific examples of images that convey parts of his story.

Part Two: Read the article about symbolism in both art and literature. If you were to create an original work of art inspired by your own life story, what images would you use for symbolic meaning?

8th Grade: Go to the website above and read about the culture behind graffiti (click on the subtitles on the left-hand side under the word “Culture”). Basquiat was known for his love of graffiti and his ability to create powerful messages using the graffiti subculture. Write a persuasive essay stating your stance on whether or not graffiti should be considered art. Be sure to use examples from both the texts and images to support your claim.