**Teacher** Hanna Brown

**Grade / Class** 9th-12th / Ceramics

**Lesson Title** What’s it like to be a kid again?

**Big Idea** Nostalgia & Commemorating

**Key Concept**

Students at the high school level able to understand that art is about the creative process and develop a personal style less associated by their peers. Students will begin to reflect into their past to maintain a nostalgic feeling when creating their art. Students at this age comprehend more about design principles for example when they look at colors they can detect feelings and expressive qualities which they will be able to use in all of their work. Students at this age have an understanding about the world and their preexisting knowledge and pair it with things they have learned, so knowing what nostalgia and wishing for a “better,” “easier,” or “different” time will be second nature to them due to the stressful environment of high school, pressures from friends, and college/adult expectations. Some students are more than ready to get out of high school, but many still want no responsibility and giving this lesson will humble them to remember what were the smaller things in life were.

**Essential Questions**

* What reminds you of childhood?
* What elements and principles of design bring about a certain memory, smell, or tradition in your family?

**National / State Standards**

VA: Cn11.1.iia Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural, and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary and local contexts.

VA: Cr2.1.iia Through experimentation, practice, and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge of a chosen art form.

VA: Cr1.1.ia Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.

**Lesson Objective**

* Students will be able to recall times they felt nostalgic about their childhood; students will transfer this information by looking at artist Brett Kern who uses clay to fossilize objects from his own childhood.
* Students will transfer their own ideas of nostalgia while using the principles of art and design to create a piece from their past associated with popular culture.

**Assessment** Students will first self assess before the teacher grades their work. Assessment is attached.

**Differentiated Instruction** None needed, grade based on ability of each student.

**Media Category / Materials List** Newspaper, Tape, Clay, Tools, Water, Bucket, Underglaze, Paper, & Pencil.

**Lesson Overview** Students will start off by using their cellphones to be a part of a poll everywhere, discussing the topic of the must have toys when they were a kid. Students who don’t have cellphones will ask those who have one to submit their answers for them, or come up to the teacher’s desk to submit theirs. Students will then observe and participate in a PowerPoint about nostalgia and ceramicist Brett Kern. Brett Kern works with molds that ‘fossilize’ his love and pop culture as a kid from late 80s to early 90s. Each piece he makes has carefully selection with color, texture, and form in order to make sure his memories and toys will always be permanent. Students will be able to identify what they are nostalgic about and use this knowledge to create 3 sketches of items they cherished in order to recreate in ceramics. Each student will create a newspaper mold in order to wrap clay slab around and manipulate with tools in order to echo those same memories. The student will use elements and principles of art and design such as texture, color, form, and scale to make sure the nostalgia factor is present. Once this is completed, the student will write a letter to their child self “from the future” on why they chose this to remember out of their childhood.

**Procedures**

Day 1

05: Get settled, say pause on old lesson and starting a new, but we will go back to it.

08: Open and start “Poll Everywhere” Ask students to use their cell phones to go to this website. Read the prompt and answer the question-put in as many answers as they like. Ask what memories do they associate with this toy? Would you share with the class?

10-15: PowerPoint about nostalgia

20-25: Worksheet about sounds from their childhood and feelings they associate it with

25: Start sketching and list. I will come by each student and check in with them on what they are doing.

40: Students can start constructing their mold with newspaper and tape

50: Students feel comfortable enough to manipulate clay to make their structure.

Day 2, 3, 4, 5…: Creating clay sculpture, adding details, bisque fire, underglaze.

**Resources**

Brett Kern’s Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BMFfUIoDDNZ/>

Brett Kern Exhibition

<http://wheelingcvb.com/30-going-on-13-sculpture-by-brett-kern/>

Brett Kern exhibition

<http://brettkernart.com/30-going-on-13-solo-exhibition-2015/nglcd3yrt7uyoch7q0ykv0g0uichv5>

Items that remind us of our childhood

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/daves4/things-that-look-just-like-childhood?utm_term=.nooZEx6EX#.rpjbX27Xl>

Items reminding of our childhood

<https://www.pinterest.com/lajaunaservingu/things-i-remember-from-my-childhood/>

Best toys of 2006

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20061116005214/en/AllAboardToys.com-Announces-Toys-2006>