

Linda Cox, Cannella Elementary School, Hillsborough County



“Because character education is a fundamental element of my approach to art instruction, I regularly select articles that illustrate the strength of the human spirit. Overcoming adversity is an art in itself, and discussing the newspaper articles helps to build empathy and compassion as it incorporates any artistic connection that may exist. The Times is therefore an important component in the development of overall learning.”

Linda was chosen as a 2019 Honorable Mention for using the *Tampa Bay Times* on an ongoing basis as a resource in her art classes.

Linda uses the daily and Sunday comics from the *Times* to demonstrate the value of different illustrative styles to her students.

Students describe, interpret, analyze and judge each illustrative style while assessing their relative merits. They then do their own illustrations based on what was discussed. Linda has developed this technique specifically to engage students who might otherwise feel that their art proficiency and aptitude are “less than.” The resulting discussions encourage students to realize how their specific artistic talents are equally valid.

Linda also uses the *Times* as a vehicle for enhancing student literacy in lessons that combine art with other subjects. For example, students read the comics aloud to reinforce their reading skills and write captions to explain the meaning of their own illustrations.

Finally, Linda uses the *Times* to help her incorporate character education into her art instruction. She regularly selects articles that illustrate the strength of the human spirit for class discussion. Discussing the newspaper articles helps her students to build empathy and compassion while incorporating any artistic connection that may exist.