

1619 Project Opening Act ***Born on the Water* Graphic Organizer**

Step One

For each page pair in *Born on the Water*, list an emotion that the **image** makes you feel using a post-it. Challenge yourself to not use the same emotion more than once. For reference, use the [emotions list](#)

What are some of your initial reactions to Nikkolas Smith's artwork?

Step Two

Place your post-it notes next to its chapter title on the white board. Look at the emotions your peers used as well.

Step Three

Now, choose one positive emotion and one negative emotion from the collection on the whiteboard. For each, use a different Harvard Thinking Strategy and respond to the image connected.

1. See, Think, Feel, Wonder
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. What do you think?
 - c. What do you feel?
 - d. What do you wonder?
2. Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS)
 - a. What do you think is going on in the picture?
 - b. What do you see that makes you say that?
 - c. What else do you notice?
3. Beauty and Truth
 - a. What's the beauty in this artwork?
 - b. What's the truth in it?
 - c. How might beauty reveal truth?
 - d. How might beauty conceal truth?

4. 3 WHYs
 - a. Why might this matter to me?
 - b. Why might this matter to people around me - family, friends, community, city, and nation?
 - c. Why might this matter to the world?
5. Point of View
 - a. Who is involved in the situation?
 - b. How does he/she feel, think or act?
 - c. Why might he/she feel, think or act this way?

Negative Emotion	Positive Emotion

Step Four

Choose any chapter. How does Nikkolas Smith's artwork add to the meaning of Hannah-Jones and Watson's text?

How does Hannah-Jones and Watson's text add to the meaning of Smith's artwork?

Step Five

Read the entire story and then answer the questions.

- a. Identify Hannah-Jones and Watson's purpose.

Hannah-Jones and Watson's writers' purpose in *Born on the Water* is...(next word is a verb, an action word)

- b. Identify Smith's purpose?

Smith's artist's purpose in *Born on the Water* is...(next word is a verb, an action word.)

- c. Identify a theme and provide evidence from the text and artwork to support your analysis.

Step 6

List as many ways as possible that *Born on the Water* is a “New Origin Story.”

Step 7

Create a slide and add to our class slideshow.

Born on the Water Slides—Create a slide that strives to:

1. Reflect deeply on *Born on the Water*.
2. Engage with both the text and the images.
3. Lean into discomfort.

You might consider any of the following:

- Why is this story important for children of all ages to read?
- In what ways is this a new origin story?
- Illuminate the writers' purpose and support with evidence from the text
- Illuminate the artist's purpose and support with evidence from the art
- How can we apply the themes of this text to our world?
- Illuminate your new learnings, new thinking, new understandings, or new feelings about the institution that enslaved human beings
- React to politicians banning this book from classrooms
- Consider why this origin story hasn't been taught previously
- Compare this origin story with others you have been taught
- Compare this story of the enslavement of human beings with other stories you have been taught
- Explore the wealth of ways that African-descended people have and continue to resist white supremacy
- Explore the legacies of the enslavement of African-descended people in the Americas
- Consider why students didn't want to engage with the text; rather, immediately transitioned to conversations far, far away from the realities illuminated in the text

Norms for Responding to Others Slides:

- Strive to reference the text and images when possible
- Be mindful of the ways that different aspects of your identity are marginalized and privileged. Understand that while Vocal Justice believes in the importance of intersectionality, the institution that enslaved human beings did so based upon race—a social construct that was created to privilege white people and commit some of the most savage crimes against Black people in the Americas.
- Add or extend to their response
- Pose a different opinion
- Ask a question
- Connect it to either history or the present
- Use any part of any of the *Harvard Thinking Strategies* (for example, This matters to those around me because...)
- Illuminate how their response made you rethink or reimagine your previous thoughts