

# YOU ARE WHAT YOU BRING WITH YOU...

## Community Art Project Education Guide



Illustration for One Day We Bundled Gifts in Our Backpack and Crossed a Bridge. 2018. Yuyi Morales. Mixed media digital. Dreamers (New York: Neal Porter Books, Holiday House Publishing, Inc.) 2018. Collection of the artist.

**Every voice is unique. Every story is important.**

Thank you for participating in Canton Museum of Art's community art project!

This project is open to anyone who wants to share a personal journey story through pictures and writing.

Do you, or someone you know, have a unique story to tell about your travels, the people you met along the way, cultural traditions you've experienced, or a heroic journey about determination and hope?

Whatever your story, sharing it brings diverse experiences to light in our vibrant Stark County community!

Canton Museum of Art's You Are What You Bring with You... public art project is funded in part by:



## LEARN MORE ABOUT GMA'S COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

This project is based on the work by children's book author/illustrator, Yuyi Morales, who is one of three featured artists in Canton Museum of Art's exhibition:

### Finding Home: Four Artists' Journeys

Exhibition Organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

This exhibition features compelling visual memoirs inspired by personal journeys through time and place in search of home. Three master illustrators bring the immigration experience to life in images and words that give voice to the complex emotional realities of traveling to America, and of adapting to a new world thousands of miles away from where their stories began.

More than one hundred-fifty original drawings, paintings, linoleum block prints, and digital mixed media works by artists **Frances Jetter**, **David Macaulay**, **James McMullan**, and **Yuyi Morales** draw upon memories and family narratives, and on historical research that establishes meaningful contexts for their work. Personal mementos – from treasured toys, skates, and tea sets to articles of clothing, books, photographs, and travel documents will illuminate each illustrator's story.

## You are what you bring with you...

We all have things that we bring with us. We bring our diverse stories, our strengths, cherished people, places, and things that we hold dear. Some of these things we can physically carry like a treasured stuffed animal. Others may be a memory of your favorite food cooking during a family tradition. Maybe it's even your courageous spirit. These things make us who we are. We carry these important things with us every day on our journey throughout life. **No matter where you go or where you call home, you are what you bring with you...**

**Want to learn more about artists who express their personal immigration and migration journeys through storytelling?**

**[Visit Finding Home: Four Artists' Journeys \(May 2, 2023- July 23, 2023\)](#)**

"It was not what I left behind, it was what I brought with me, my young child, the stories of my ancestors, the fabric my mother sewed, my strengths, my passions."  
– Artist Yuyi Morales



Illustration for Unbelievable. Surprising. 2018. Yuyi Morales. Mixed media digital. Dreamers (New York: Neal Porter Books, Holiday House Publishing, Inc.) 2018. Collection of the artist

## Spotlight on artist, Yuyi Morales



SOURCE: Yuyi Morales — National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature Visit.  
Creator: Gustavo Barrios Copyright: Gustavo Barrios

Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico in 1968. The influence of her Mexican birthright and culture is evident in all of her titles and helps to identify the power of heritage in the work of children's picture books. Her family was made of avid storytellers, which laid a foundation of creative communication from the beginning of Yuyi's life. She loved drawing from an early age, an interest that was encouraged growing up by her mother and father.

Yuyi immigrated to the United States as a new mother with her two-month-old son, Kelly, and his American father in 1994. During a difficult transition period, she was introduced by Kelly's grandmother to a local public library. In the children's book section, she found a gateway to her new life. Even if she did not know all of the words, she could determine the story through the pictures that communicated despite language barriers. In this way, she learned English alongside her son, Kelly. This initial introduction to a public library led her down a path to see her childhood dream of being an artist and storyteller come true.

Yuyi's stories are heavily influenced by her upbringing in Mexico and give insight from an immigrant's perspective. Her book, *Dreamers*, speaks to this experience and topic. "As anyone who comes to a new country carries with her, with him, all those stories, I brought them with me, too, and I put them in my books all the time," Morales has said.

Yuyi is a six-time recipient of the prestigious Pura Belpré award, and the first Latina to receive a Caldecott honor for her book, *Viva Frida*, in 2015.

**Check out Yuyi reading her book, *Dreamers*, here:**

**Link: [Yuyi Morales: Dreamers Read-Aloud](#)**

# Immigration and migration stories inspire!

Sharing stories through art and writing helps others appreciate diverse personal origins and journeys taken that are different from their own.

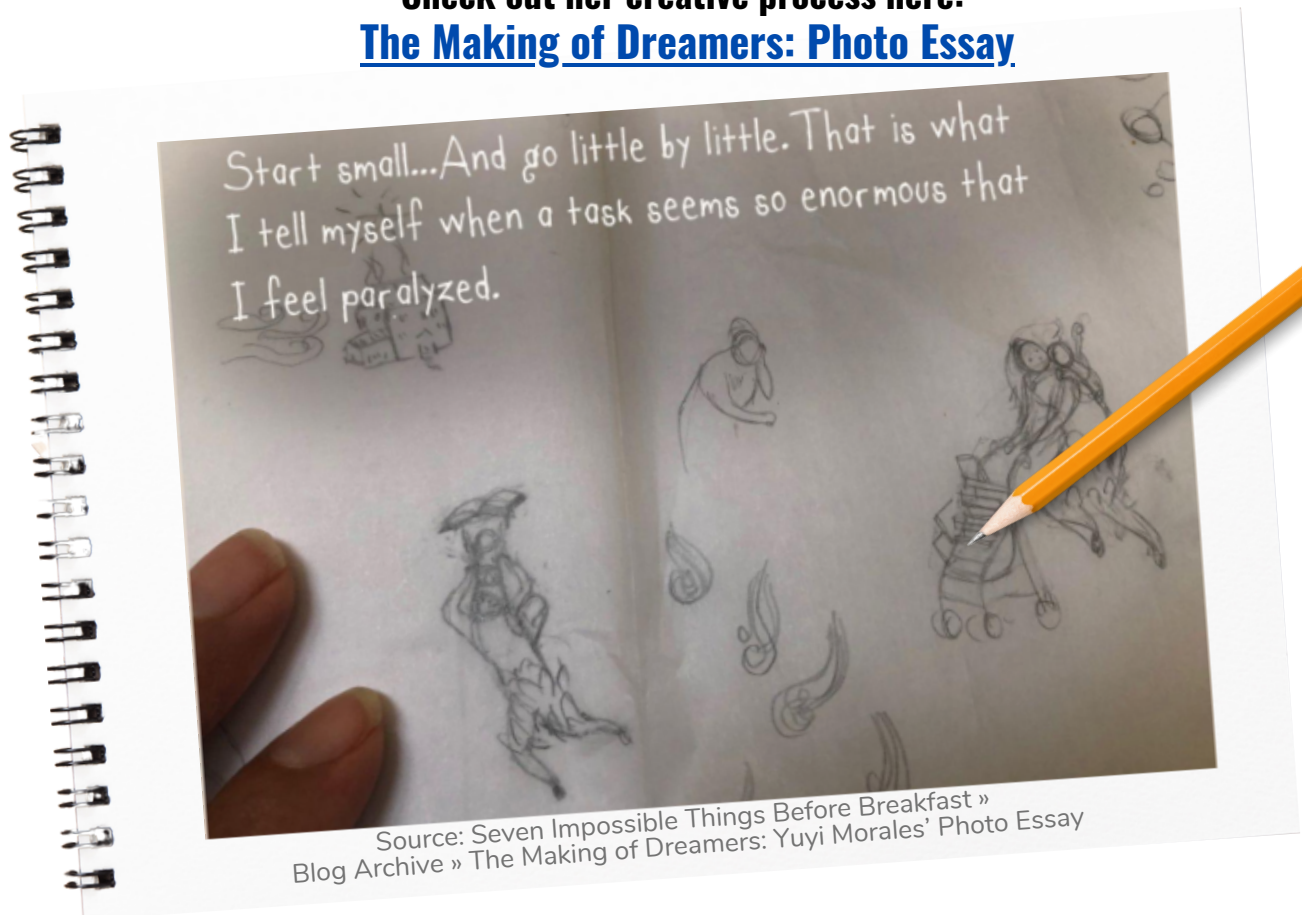
Do you or someone you know have a migration experience or immigration journey to share?

What have you brought with you, and what have your family members, friends, or neighbors brought with them on their journeys to find a place they can call “home?”

## How does Yuyi Morales develop ideas for her picture books?

Check out her creative process here:

[The Making of Dreamers: Photo Essay](#)



Source: Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast »  
Blog Archive » The Making of Dreamers: Yuyi Morales' Photo Essay

**“When I crossed the border  
with only a bag of clothes and a newborn in my arms,  
I was also carrying with me incredible gifts.  
We all, as immigrants, do it and we share them  
in our new country.”**

**– Artist Yuyi Morales**



**Now, it's your turn to share a story.**



**Before you sit down to draw or write, Think about the following question:**

**If you only had a backpack to carry...  
What personal items, stories, memories, or experiences  
did you, or would you, bring with you  
on your journey to find home?**

- Please respond to this question on the two-part worksheet provided.
- The top half of the worksheet is a blank space to draw, collage, or include a photo about your story (or someone else's story).
- The bottom half of the worksheet is a lined space to write about the story.

# Additional Resources for Grown-Ups and Families

Check out these resources to encourage  
thinking about your family story...and don't forget your local library!

Yuyi Morales Quick Talk  
[Creator Corner with Yuyi Morales DREAMERS](#)

Yuyi Talks About Her Book Dreamers  
[Yuyi Morales: Dreamers Read-Aloud](#)

Yuyi Morales: Dreamers Read-Aloud  
<https://youtu.be/DItC93ilVHs>

Inside Author Yuyi Morales Studio  
<https://www.moothermag.com/yuyi-morales/>

How to Talk to Kids About Immigration, Migration, and the Notion of Home  
[Exploring Young Immigrant Stories | Learning for Justice](#)

Help Students Understand Their Family History  
[It's My Life . Family . Immigration . Who and Why? | PBS Kids GO!](#)

[It's My Life . Family . Immigration . Moving Towards Hope | PBS Kids GO!](#)

Immigration/Migration: What's It All About?  
[http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/young\\_immigrants/index.html](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/young_immigrants/index.html)

Real Stories Shared By Real People  
[Stories - I Am an Immigrant](#)



# TO PARTICIPATE AND ENTER TO WIN:

Submissions will be accepted from **May 2- July 19, 2023**.

- Submissions must be created on the submission worksheet and fit within the letter-sized paper.
- Any materials may be used and must be securely attached, non-toxic, and safe to touch.
- Individuals are encouraged to bring in, mail, or email submission worksheets to the Museum.

**Attn: You Are What You Bring with You...**

**Canton Museum of Art  
1001 Market Ave North  
Canton, OH 44702**

Questions? Contact: [erica@cantonart.org](mailto:erica@cantonart.org)



Yes, please enter my name and contact information into the drawing to win a free backpack with art & writing supplies.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Email \_\_\_\_\_

No, I do not wish to participate in the drawing at this time.



## VIRTUAL CELEBRATION AND WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT:



Join us on  
**Friday, July 21, at 6pm on Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/CantonMuseumofArt/>  
for the virtual unveiling celebration  
and announcement of backpack  
winners!

# You Are What You Bring with You...Community Art Project

## SUBMISSION FORM

If you only had a backpack to carry... What did you or would you bring with you on your journey to find home?

EXPERIENCES      Use Any Art supplies . . .      STORIES

CHALLENGES      ADVENTURE      COURAGE

FAMILY

PASSIONS

STRENGTHS      HEROIC DEEDS      PERSONAL ITEMS

Tell your story. . .

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