

BETYE SAAR: Family Guide

CALL AND RESPONSE



Transforming Trash into Treasure

Betye Saar lives in Los Angeles, where she gives old items new life. She makes **assemblages**, or sculptures made of different objects put together. Her studio is filled with bird cages, wooden toys, postcards, and other items. She is fascinated by the stories these objects can tell.

To make her assemblages, Saar looks for interesting items at flea markets, yard sales, and thrift stores. She collected objects for years before making her first sculpture.

Write down three objects you recognize:



Sanctuary Awaits

A **sanctuary** is a safe place. For her sculpture *Sanctuary Awaits*, Betye Saar was inspired by bottle trees, a folk tradition in the American South meant to protect a home. Some people believed that hanging bottles on tree branches near their home would invite good spirits and trap bad spirits. For many people, bottle trees are a symbol of safety and freedom.

Write a poem inspired by your family and their history or traditions.

My family and I are _____

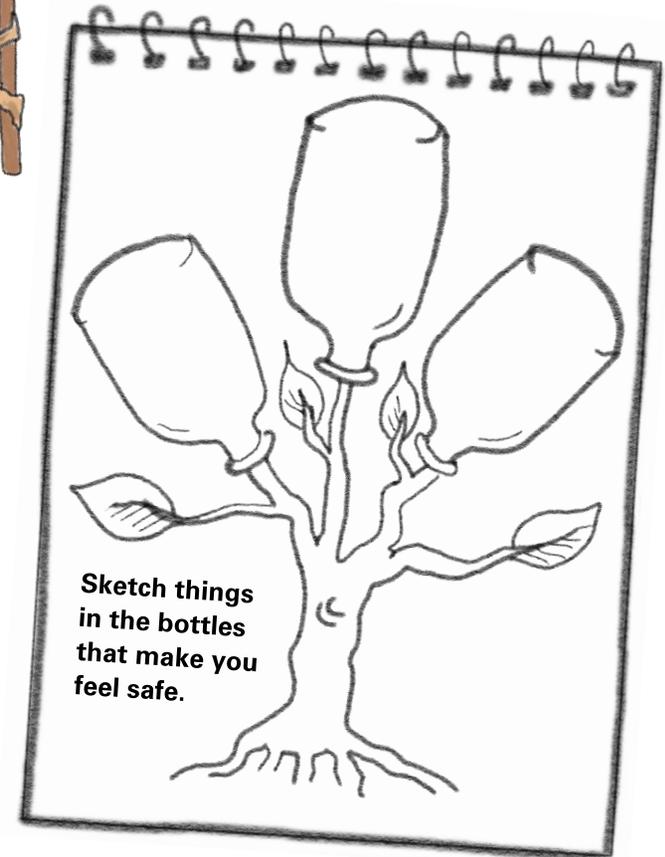
We like to _____

Our _____

_____ makes us special.

Cream

Some of Betye Saar's artworks are inspired by her family and heritage. She has written poetry about her African, Irish and Native American roots. In the artwork *Cream*, she includes photos of her mother and grandparents along with handprints from herself and her granddaughter.



Nasher Sculpture Center

Parents, please be advised that this exhibition contains explicit language related to race.