

# K-5: HEROES and SHEROES ACTIVITY PACKET





## ABOUT CORITA KENT

Corita Kent (1918–1986) was an artist, educator, and advocate for social justice. At age 18, she entered the religious order Immaculate Heart of Mary. After teaching art at Immaculate Heart College for many years, she became the chair of the art department in 1964. Her work evolved from featuring figurative and religious imagery to incorporating advertising images and slogans, popular song lyrics, biblical verses, and literature. Throughout the '60s, her work became increasingly political, urging viewers to consider poverty, racism, and social injustice. In 1968, she sought dispensation from her vows and moved to Boston. After 1970, her work evolved into a sparser, introspective style, influenced by living in a new environment, a secular life, and her battles with cancer. She remained active in social causes until her death in 1986. At the time of her death, she had created almost 800 serigraph editions, thousands of watercolors, and innumerable public and private commissions.

## ABOUT POP ART

The Pop art movement emerged from the post-war period, during a time when the US was experiencing a surge of economic and political growth. Finding inspiration in the new consumer and mass media landscape, pop artists embraced everyday items, incorporating imagery and texts found in a wide range of sources from newspapers to consumer goods and advertising. They also adopted more commercial modes of production such as silk-screening, and often produced works in multiple copies in order to challenge notions of originality. For this reason, Pop art is also associated with blurring the boundaries between mass culture and fine art.

## WHAT IS A SERIGRAPH?

Serigraphy is another term for screen printing. Screen printing is a popular printmaking technique that allows an artist to print multiple artworks using the same stencil. The process begins by drawing or tracing an image to create a stencil. The stencil is fastened with a chemical or photographic process to a screen, often made of silk, and is then stretched over a wooden frame. Once complete, the frame is placed over paper or canvas and a thick ink is applied in a line at the top of the screen. Using a squeegee, the ink is manually pushed across the surface of the screen and through the stencil onto the paper's surface, revealing a copy of the original image.

## WHY DID CORITA CHOOSE SERIGRAPHY?

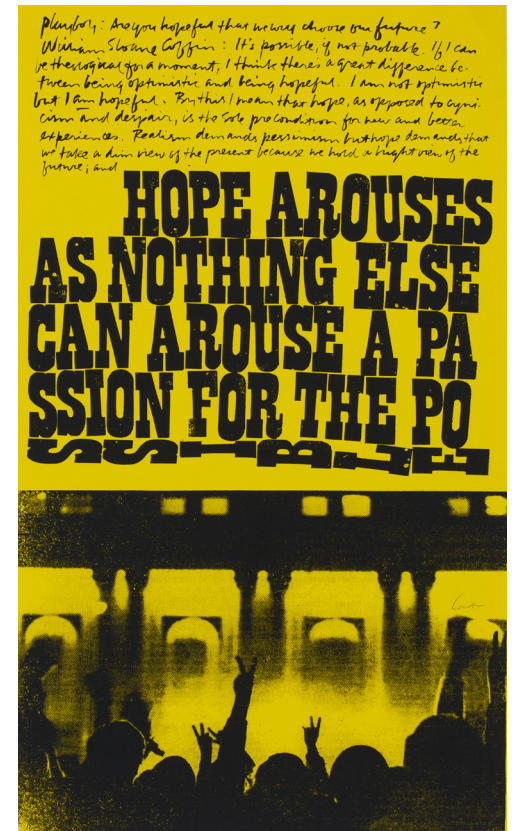
Corita began serigraphy or silkscreen printing as she was finishing her graduate degree. She thought it would be a good method to teach to her students, many of whom were pre-service teachers. Serigraphy appealed to Corita for another important reason, she wanted her art to be accessible and widely available. Serigraphy simplified the production of multiple works, and allowed for her message of hope, love and justice to be put into the world much faster.

## ABOUT HEROES AND SHEROES

Created in 1969, *heroes and sheroes* consists of 29 artworks that feature notable historical figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Daniel Berrigan, and Cesar Chavez. The series highlights Corita's singular approach to pairing evocative imagery and poignant texts drawn from sources within arm's reach: magazines, newspapers, advertisements, poetry and pop lyrics. In her *heroes and sheroes*, we see Corita directly responding to the world around her, reflecting on the social and political movements of the decade. Whether addressing topics such as Chicano awareness, civil rights, nuclear disarmament or political assassinations, Corita's colorful and poignant images often speak towards a hopeful future.

## ABOUT CORITA ART CENTER

The Corita Art Center, a project of the Immaculate Heart Community, preserves and promotes Corita Kent's art, teaching, and passion for social justice. The Corita Art Center maintains the largest and most comprehensive collection of work by iconic pop artist pioneer Corita Kent (1918-1986). The Center's collection is composed of Corita's artwork, photographs, ephemera, and other archival material that visitors won't see anywhere else. The Corita Art Center is dedicated to preserving and promoting Corita's artistic and educational legacy as well as her passion for social justice. Today, the Corita Art Center supports exhibition loans and public programs, oversees image and merchandising rights, and serves as a resource of information about her life and work. The Corita Art Center is a project of the Immaculate Heart Community.



# ALPHABET again and again



A pattern is an order of things repeated over and over. Once you notice and describe the pattern, you can tell how to continue a pattern.

## Instructions:

Study the patterns below and try to continue them or complete the missing sections. Remember to have fun! Try putting letters upside down or backwards to see them in a new way. Do you notice anything that the letters have in common?

Where can patterns be found in nature?

AAA VVV AAA UUUUUU AAA VVV AAA UUUUUU AAA  
AAA VVV AAA UUUUUU AAA VVV AAA UUUUUU AAA

IIIII OO OO OO IIIII AAA IIIII OO OO OO IIIII AAA  
IIIII OO OO OO IIIII AAA IIIII OO OO OO IIIII AAA

YYYYY <<< YYYYY >>>>>> <<<<<< YYYYY  
YYYYY <<< YYYYY >>>>>> <<<<<< YYYYY

E3oE3 E3oE3 E3oE3 E3oE3 E3oE3 E3oE3 E3oE3

Use the line below to create your own pattern using letters from the alphabet.

## Additional fun:

Pretend you are a microscope. Spend some time exploring one room in your house looking at everything in the room as if you had never seen it before then pick an object you've never paid much attention to in the past. Look very closely for five minutes. When you are looking, start looking for patterns that present themselves in texture or shadow. Draw the object five times on the back of this worksheet.

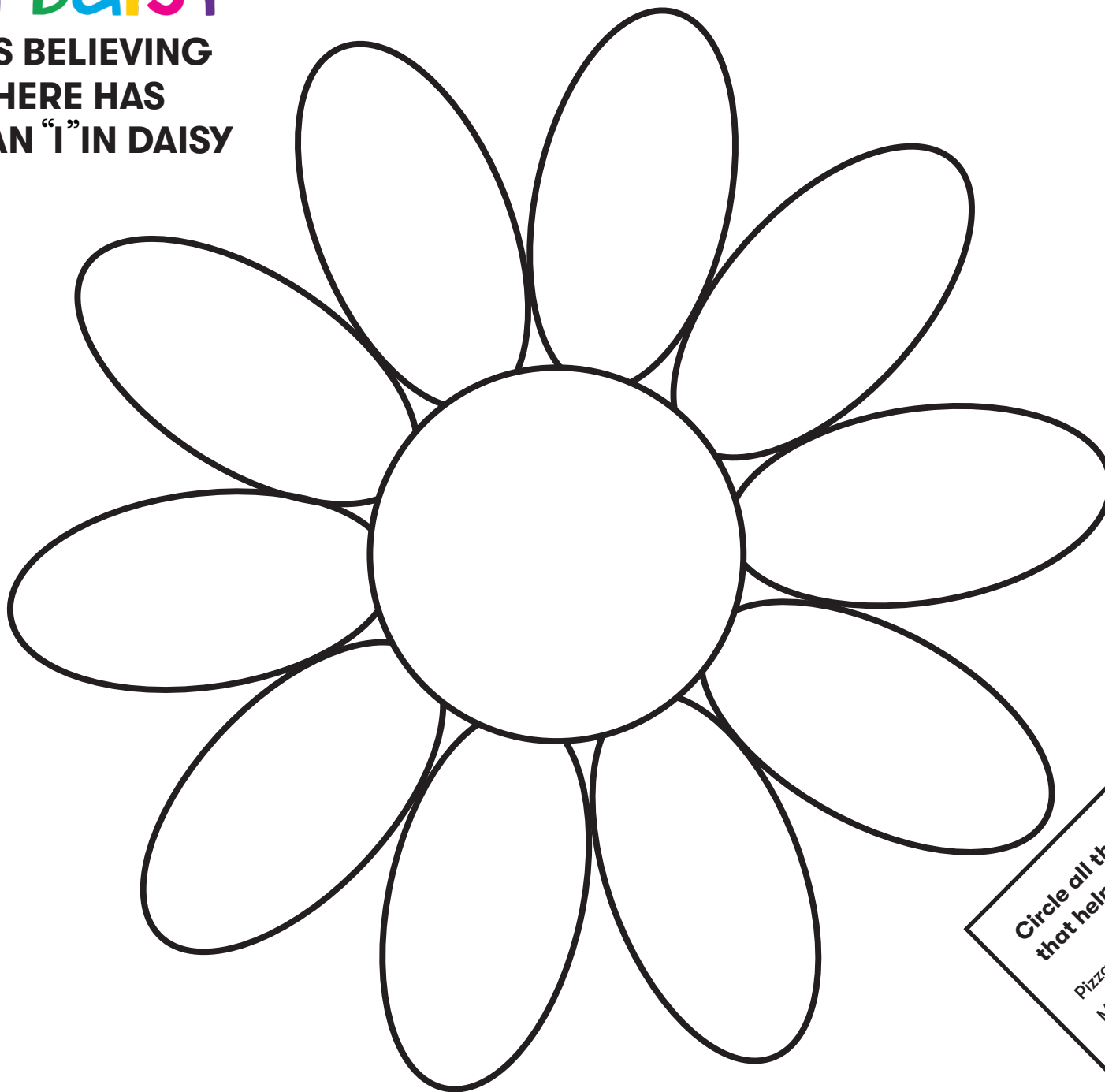
# "I" In DAISY

HOPE IS BELIEVING  
THAT THERE HAS  
TO BE AN "I" IN DAISY



## Instructions:

Draw a self portrait in the center of the daisy. In each petal identity, draw, color or collage 10 people that inspire you to be a hero and/or shero in your community. Example: Parents, teachers, firefighters, nurses, etc.



Every language has a word for "peace". Match the translated words for peace on the left to its language on the right by drawing a line.

和平 Héping	Italian
Paix	German
평화 Pyeonghwa	French
Paz	Mandarin
Pace	Korean
Frieden	Spanish

**Circle all the words below  
that help a daisy grow:**

Pizza \* Sunshine \* Love \* Songs  
Music \* Movies \* Water \* Jelly Beans  
Oranges \* Magazines \* Soil \* Air

# LET THE SUN SHINE IN

## A TREE DIARY



### Instructions:

1. Choose a tree (or plant) that you can see outside from your window. Draw it below.
2. Check the tree (or plant) once a day for five days. Draw it again each day for five minutes.
3. Make sure to draw it at different times of day and take detailed notes about its character and appearance. What has changed from the day before? Are there shadows? Does it appear to be dancing in the wind? All things are important when looking closely.

**DAY 1**

**DAY 2**

**DAY 3**

**DAY 4**

**DAY 5**

### Additional fun:

On your next walk through your neighborhood, see if you can find more trees that are like the one you chose. Take time to look at the shape of the tree - what makes it different and what makes it similar?

LOVE IS HERE  
TO STAY

GET WITH  
THE ACTION

### Instructions:

What's the title of your personalized newspaper? Start by writing that up top. This is now your paper to report what is happening in your world - just the way you see it. Using newspaper, magazine, printouts from online, or your own drawings, collage together the cover of a newspaper to report the news to your family. What did you do today? What is happening out your window? What is important to you? Use clippings to make a headline and then write or draw the content of each article.

When art has changed, it's because the world was changing. - Corita Kent

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## BOOKS

Ault, Julie. *Come Alive!: the Spirited Art of Sister Corita*. Four Corners, 2007.

Berry, Ian, and Michael Duncan. *Someday Is Now: the Art of Corita Kent*. The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, 2013.

Corita, and Jan Steward. *Learning by Heart*. Allworth Press, 2008.

Dackerman, Susan, et al. *Corita Kent and the Language of Pop*. Harvard Art Museums, 2015.

## INTERVIEWS

UCLA Oral History

<https://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu/viewItem.do?ark=21198/zz0008z9kb&title=Kent,%20Corita>

Story Corps x Corita Kent

<https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/tour/storycorps-and-corita-kent>

## VIDEOS

Corita Art Center - From the Archives

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPsZ3\\_J-JCIJbQ9Hj-78BOg3AK914fOP9](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPsZ3_J-JCIJbQ9Hj-78BOg3AK914fOP9)

Art + Life Rules From A Nun by Art Assignment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRPyql3cezo>

Be a Microscope by Aaron Rose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaOWOULeH-0>

Corita Kent and the Language of Pop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsXi9ZSZL7k>

AIGA Medalist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tivdlh2mhlU>

## CONTACT US

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## FOLLOW US

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#getwiththeaction



Corita Kent, *i in daisy* from *heroes and sheroes*, 1969