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# Intertextuality and the Integration of the Arts



**Intertextuality:** The history of intertextuality and the relationship that exists between the arts

**Education:** Integrating visual art into the English Language Arts (ELA) classroom and the benefits of that integration

# Intertextuality

Literature and visual art have been influencing each other in various ways throughout the ages through a complex relationship of intertextuality.

- Aesthetics
- Style/time periods
- Factual approach

# Specific Examples of Intertextuality

Charles  
Baudelaire and  
Eugene  
Delacroix

William Blake

Sylvia Plath

William  
Shakespeare

# Incorporation of Visual Arts in the ELA Classroom

## Benefits:

- Academic Performance
- Motivation/Confidence
- Background Knowledge, Comprehension, Higher Levels of Critical Thinking

# Examples of Ways to Incorporate Visual Art Into ELA Lessons

## ▶ **Lesson Overview 1:**

- ▶ Pairing Dorothea Lange's photographic images with passages from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

## ▶ **Lesson Overview 2:**

- ▶ Reading and analyzing the passage from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* depicting the scene of Ophelia's death while examining how visual artists interpret lines from the text

# Conclusion

- W. J. T. Mitchell defines the concept of art: “All media are mixed media, and all representations are heterogenous; there are no purely visual or verbal arts” (5).
- Combining the two disciplines provides ELA classrooms with a certain enrichment that can breathe new life into instruction that results in students seeing the possibilities through intertextuality where none may have seemed to exist.

Mitchell, W. J. T. *Picture Theory: Essays on Verbal and Visual Representation*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1994.