

## Lesson Plan: Circus Circus: Circus Art

Submitted by Laura Raphael, Children's Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library

- Overview

In this lesson, students will explore vintage circus poster art and identify common features before creating their own circus poster featuring themselves or their families and their “ordinary” or “extraordinary” talents.

- Resources & Preparation
  - Materials and Technology

Copy of *Extraordinary Jane*

Circus poster template (below)

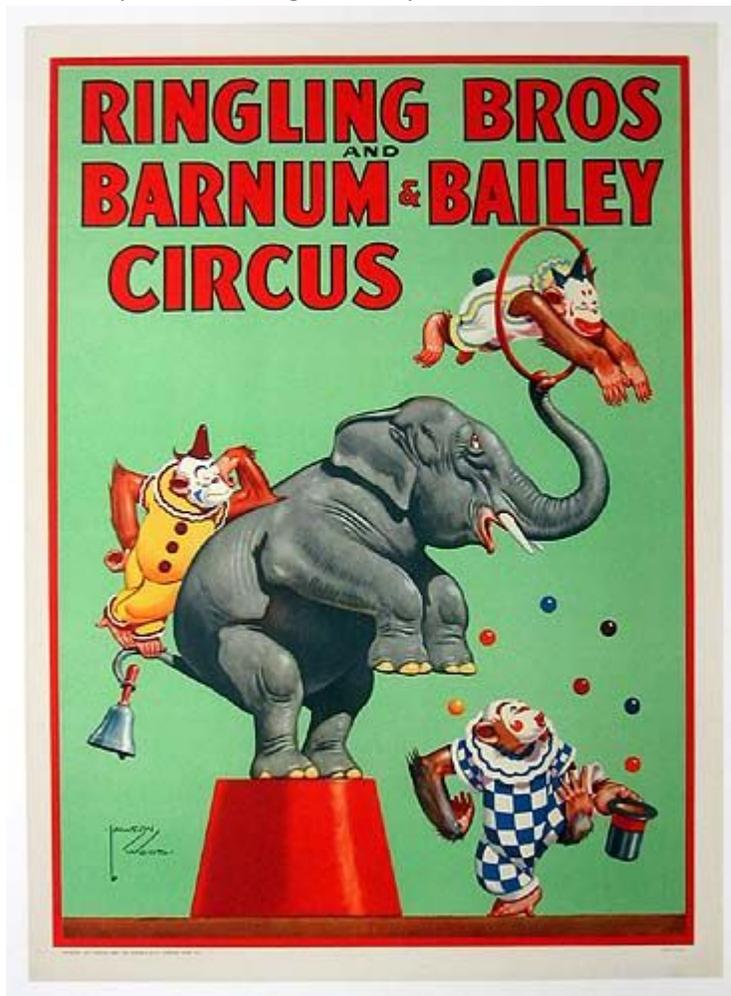
Art supplies – crayons, paints, markers, etc.

- Instructional Plan

- Student Objectives:
  - Analyze vintage circus posters and identify common features
  - Brainstorm “ordinary” talents and “extraordinary” talents they or their family members possess
  - Create poster art that reflects both the common features of circus posters and highlights talents
- 1. Read *Extraordinary Jane* by Hannah E. Harrison. Pay particular attention to the circus poster art on the end pages.
- 2. Ask students to research vintage circus poster art using Google Images. Alternative: pull up examples of vintage circus poster art with your Smart Board.
- 3. What are some of the common features that appear in many of the posters? If you were going to make a circus poster, what would you need to include?
- 4. Using *Extraordinary Jane* as a starting place, discuss the difference between “ordinary” and “extraordinary” talents.
- 5. Ask students to choose either themselves, a family member, or family members to highlight on a circus poster. Make a list of that person's “ordinary” talents and “extraordinary” talents.
- 6. Create poster!

- Additional Resources

An example of a vintage circus poster:



Features:

- Bright colors
- Block letters
- Animals in action poses