

ART ENCOUNTERS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2004-2005

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE



Friends of the Arts
Regional arts Council PO Box 386,
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www.friends-of-the-arts.org

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE: Won-Ldy Paye

This Friendly Clues Study Guide provides supplementary information and activities to enhance the upcoming Art Encounters Education Program at your school. The guide was developed to assist teachers in making connections between the arts enrichment program and their curriculum.

Inside you will find:

- 1. Background information** about the artist
- 2. Student Activity sheet**
- 3. Resource Links:** suggested books/videos, and websites.
- 4. Audience Responsibility:** Prepare your students for a live presentation.
- 5. Letter to parents:** Let your community know what wonderful cultural program you provide for your students! Invite them to attend Won-Ldy Paye's presentation at your school.
- 6. Art Encounters Education Program History:** Serving schools since 1978!
- 7. Program Evaluation Form:** Help us to continue improving how we serve your school!

1. Background Information about the Artist:

MEET Won-Ldy Paye

Who: Won-Ldy Paye is a multi-talented artist from Tapita, in the northeastern region of Liberia, West Africa. He is a member of the Tlo Ker Mehn, the class of professional Dan entertainers who are keepers of the oral tradition.

What: Won-Ldy Paye brings traditional Liberian stories to life with his attention grabbing performances. He creates a style that is very subtle, gentle, spiritual yet grounded. His quick wit and charm captivates audiences of all ages and sizes as he spins his web of magic in the tradition of his family. Won-Ldy's stories of the rice farmer from tropical West Africa are about people, animals, places and things. His storytelling includes the use of musical instruments, hand clapping, singing and audience participation.

Where: Won-Ldy Paye's stories reflect the culture of Liberia. He says, "Liberian art, music, dance and storytelling are a life style. They are sociological and cultural studies of Liberian people."

When: Won-Ldy Paye will be coming to _____ school on _____ at _____.

Listen for these Vocabulary words:

- **Tlo Ker Mehn:** (Tlo = person, Ker = an action verb of being/doing, Mehn = person): From the Dan or Gio language of Northeastern Liberian, this group of words is used to describe traditional and professional entertainers.
- **Glé:** (Masquerade): Dan (Gio) language in Northeastern Liberian. Glé is the general word used to describe any person in a masquerade costume. No physical attribute of a person should be identified in a Glé.
- **Liberia:** (liber, Latin word meaning free): A Republic of West Africa that occupies 43,000 square miles on the Gulf of Guinea. Population, 2.5 million. Capital, Monrovia. Founded in 1822 by philanthropic organization in the U.S. to be a home for emancipated black slaves.
- **Sande** (SAN-day) = an exclusive female traditional institution for all learning.
- **Poro** (POH-roh) = an exclusive male traditional institution for all learning.

Meet Won-Ldy Paye (from www.wonldypaye.com)

Won-Ldy Paye is a multi-talented artist from Tapita, in the northeastern region of Liberia, West Africa. He is a member of the Tlo Ker Mehn, the class of professional Dan entertainers who are keepers of the oral tradition. He was trained by his grandmother-Gowo to remember and retell the stories of the Dan people. As a child Won-Ldy learned drumming, instrument making, dancing, wood carving, mask making, fabric dyeing, and mural painting-the traditional arts and knowledge that nourish and entertain every Dan person. In addition, he studied reading, writing, and arithmetic-the skills he needed for the world beyond Tapita.

The tropical rain forest and rice fields were Won-Ldy's places of work, play, and learning. His natural environment was full of imagination and creativity. Bamboo trees were used for dolls, hats, and ropes. Canoes, masks, and instruments were made out of lightwood. Darts and mankala were played in the sand and grasses. Toys and games were everywhere.

The market arena, one of the wonders of African culture, was an important source of education and artistic inspiration for Won-Ldy. On a single market day Tapita would explode with people. Friends and relatives, merchants and buyers, musicians, masks dancers, magicians and fortune tellers, chiefs, storytellers, animals and children would come from far and near. Won-Ldy observes, "A life span of a thousand years could come to life in one single market day. On this day a town would become a big orchestra and seemed to hug the sky. In my mind the arena was endless as the day met the night." Won-Ldy remembers market days as vibrant and magical. He had the privilege and opportunity to meet his cultural icons and shake hands with his role models. These experiences provided the foundation for Won-Ldy's artistic vision and drive.

Liberia

- 1462 - Portuguese traders arrived and established the Atlantic slave trade
- 1822 -- Established as a settlement for freed slaves
- 1847 -- Became the first black republic
- 1959 -- OAU (Organization of African Unity) was founded in Liberia
- 1980 -- Military coup in Liberia

The first African Republic - Liberia - is currently under siege. Since 1989, the country has been torn by a bloody civil war against the most corrupt, most abusive government in the history of West Africa. Today over 50,000 people have died and over half a million Liberians now live as refugees in neighboring African countries.

Ninety-five percent of the people of Liberia are indigenous Africans while the remainder are descendents of freed American slaves. Twenty-eight languages are spoken in Liberia, but English is used for commerce, education, and government.

2. Student Activity Sheet

From Won-Ldy: An Activity that teachers can do with students either before or after my presentation:

“Liberia was established in 1822 by philanthropic organizations in the United States as a result of Blacks emancipation. Because of this establishment, the history of Liberia and its people have many great resemblances and similarities to that of the United States.”

- Think about what Won-Ldy’s statement above: What similarities and differences can students find between the **government** of Liberia and that of the U.S.?
- **Where is Liberia? Locate Liberia on a map of the world.** What will be the most **direct route** to Liberia from the United States?
- **Find Liberia on a map of Africa:**
 - a...What other African countries border Liberia?
 - b...What Ocean borders Liberia?
- How many **country names are there** in Africa that are spelled starting with the letter “L”?
- Do some research using a map of Liberia: Find **names of some cities, towns and streets** in Liberia that sound similar to those in the U.S.
- Think about: On what kinds of **occasions** or **festivals** or **events** in the U.S. would people wear masks, and / or costumes?

(Note: The maps needed for this activity can be found at : <http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/africa.html>)

3. Resource Links: For More Information....

Cultures of the World: Liberia, Patricia Levy, Times Editions Pte. Ltd, 1998, ISBN: 0-7614-0810-X

Art From Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back, Pamela McClusky, Seattle Art Museum, Princeton University Press, 2002, ISBN: 0-691-09295-8

Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile: a Story from Liberia, Won-Ldy Paye, Margaret H. Lippert, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, Henry Holt and Company, 2003

Head, Body, Legs: a story from Liberia, Won-Ldy Paye, Margaret Lippert, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, Henry Holt and Company, 2002, ISBN: 0-8050-6570-9

Why Leopard Has Spots: Dan Stories from Liberia, Won-Ldy Paye, Margaret H. Lippert, illustrated by Ashley Bryan, Fulcrum Publishing, 1998, ISBN:1-55591-991-X

Won-Ldy's stories appear in:

Earth Care:World Folktales to Talk About, Margaret read MacDonald, Linnet Books, 1999

Teacher's Read Aloud Anthology (Volume I), Margaret H. Lippert, ed, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, 1993

Teacher's Read Aloud Anthology (Volume IV), Margaret H. Lippert, ed, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, 1993

Reading Mastery Plus, SRA/McGraw-Hill, 2002

www.wonldypaye.com

4. History and Mission of the *Art Encounters Education Program*

The mission of the Art Encounters Education program is to expose and connect area students to a broad base of arts and cultures, through in-school and bus-in arts performances, hands-on workshops, and in-depth artists residencies. The goal is to introduce schools and students to artists and arts experiences from New Hampshire and around the world, which can be an integral part of school curricula and the overall learning process.

The Arts Encounters Program serves over 26 schools and 7500 –10,000 students annually, bringing seven-ten diverse artistic programs into our area schools during the school year. These musical, theatrical, dance, ethnic, and visual programs include in-school presentations and bus-in performances held at Silver Cultural Arts Center at Plymouth State University.

About Friends of the Arts, Regional Arts Council

Mission : To present quality visual and performing arts that are affordable and accessible to children and adults both as observers and participants. We are dedicated to arts education, enrichment and improving the patronage and support of New Hampshire artists.

The History of Friends of the Arts

Friends of the Arts, a non-profit regional arts council, was founded in 1973 by a group of faculty members and representatives from the Plymouth State College community. The organization now serves a geographic region of over 36 small towns (POP.500-5000) in Central New Hampshire. Our programs are designed to reach year-round residents of all ages and backgrounds, and to provide both visual and performing arts experiences at affordable prices. Two major programs provided by Friends of the Arts are the Performing Arts Series and the Art Encounters school performance program. Each year we serve approximately 20,000 children and adults throughout the region. We use the art, music, and theater facilities at Plymouth State College for classes, performances, exhibits and office space; an in-kind donation.

5. Audience Responsibilities: Preparing Students for a Live Presentation

When students attend a live presentation for the first time, they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or show on TV. A live presentation has not been pre-recorded, with mistakes edited out. This makes it riskier for the artist and more exciting for the audience. It also means that the audience has a real contribution to make to the overall event. Each audience member affects those around him/her as well as the artist. The more the audience gives to the artist, the more the artist can give to the audience. Because of this important audience role, we suggest teachers pass on the following guidelines to their students:

- **Prepare for the experience** by reading any background information available.
- **Welcome the artists** to your school by clapping after they have been introduced.
- **Give your energy and attention** to the artists. Laugh when you think something the artist is doing is funny. Clap after a song or section you particularly enjoyed.
- **At the end** of the show, clap to show respect for the artists' time and energy. If you were disappointed in the show, clap softly. If you think it's the best show you've ever seen, give the artists a standing ovation.
- **Do not** eat, drink, or chew gum in the presentation space.
- **Use the bathroom facilities before** the performance begins. Please do not get up during the presentation unless absolutely necessary, as this disturbs the people around you as well as the artists.
- **Do not talk** during the presentation as it disturbs the people around you.
- **If there is a question/answer period**, consider asking appropriate questions about what you saw/heard in the presentation, about what it is like to create that kind of presentation, about the country or culture the artist has come from.
- **ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!**

Dear Parents,

Your child will be experiencing an Art Encounters Education Program presentation on _____ at your school. The visiting artist is Liberian storyteller/musician/artist, Won-Ldy Paye.

Won-Ldy Paye is a multi-talented artist from Tapita, in the northeastern region of Liberia, West Africa. He is a member of the Tlo Ker Mehn, the class of professional Dan entertainers who are keepers of the oral tradition.

Won-Ldy Paye brings traditional Liberian stories to life with his attention grabbing performances. He creates a style that is very subtle, gentle, spiritual yet grounded. His quick wit and charm captivates audiences of all ages and sizes as he spins his web of magic in the tradition of his family. Won-Ldy's stories of the rice farmer from tropical West Africa are about people, animals, places and things. His storytelling includes the use of musical instruments, hand clapping, singing and audience participation.

Please join us for the experience, if you are able!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Robinson
Program Director
Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council

For more information about this or other Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council programs, visit our website at www.friends-of-the-arts.org or call our office at 536-1182.

7. Art Encounters Education Program Evaluation Form 2004-2005

Thank you for including this Friends of the Arts Art Encounters Education Program presentation in your school's plan this year! We want to continue to serve you to the highest standards with age-appropriate and curriculum-based performances for your students. We value your professional evaluation and input about the recent Art Encounters performance. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it. Thanks!

- Art Encounters Education Program Presentation: **WON-LDY PAYE**
- # of students attending _____ What grades attended? _____
- How did teachers use the Friendly Clues Study Guide?(check all that apply)
 - Teachers introduced their students to Won-Ldy Paye's background in advance of the presentation
 - Teachers followed up the presentation with discussions about Liberian Culture
 - Other? Please Explain _____
- Please rate the Friendly Clues Study Guide information:
 - Not enough info Somewhat useful Useful Excellent
- How do you rate the overall quality of **Won-Ldy Paye's** presentation?
 - Low quality OK Good Excellent
- How do you rate the educational content of the presentation as a whole?
 - Not educational Some applicable content Valuable Educationally Excellent
 Educational Content
- To what extent was there interaction between **Won-Ldy Paye** and the students?
(1 being low, 5 being high) 1 2 3 4 5
- To what extent was the performance appropriate for the age/grades that attended?
1 2 3 4 5
- What do you think your students learned from this experience of **Liberian stories**?
- Do you have any suggestions for the kinds of performers you would like to see us sponsoring?
Any specific curriculum enrichment needs we could research?

- Do you use the NH State Frameworks for the Arts as a guide in your curriculum planning?
- Is there any part of the registration and performance procedures that we could change or improve? How can Friends of the Arts be more effective in serving you?
- Other comments?

Please return this form to:

Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council, PO Box 386, Plymouth, NH 03264 603-536-1182