

**HOME Story Time Parent - Child Art Activity | October 2020**  
**Lynden Sculpture Garden**

HOME program: [www.home-at-lynden.org](http://www.home-at-lynden.org)

Recordings, worksheets and handouts: [www.lydensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time](http://www.lydensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time)

**Books, English & Arabic edition:** *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey*, written by Margriet Ruurs, and artwork by Nizar Ali Badr

**HOME Story Time Readers:** Claudia Orjuela [English reader] and Samaher Aldaye [Arabic reader]

**Art activity by Lynden art educator:** Claudia Orjuela

**Activity 4: Turning pebbles into pictures: Drawing with found materials**

**About the artist:**

When Magriet, the author of *Stepping Stones*, saw Nizar's artwork for the first time, she wondered: How can stones display such emotion? Who's the artist who can breathe such life into solid rock?

Nizar is a Syrian artist who has made art out of stones for 35 years. Each of Nizar's compositions tells a story; each scene seems to come alive. He explores different themes through his artwork, but the theme he's mostly interested in is the displacement of Syrians since the conflict started in 2011.

Nizar gathers his materials by searching the seashore for stones of different colors, shapes, and sizes. When he completes an artwork, he dismantles it and begins a new image. Just like Nizar, we will make a composition out of pebbles and other found materials. This is really fun for all ages.

**Materials:**

- Cardboard or paper as a canvas or base. A table mat would work too.
- Frame (optional). A frame is a way to highlight a composition and focus your child's attention.
- Collected natural materials: flat pebbles, sticks, leaves, seeds, bark. If you can't go outside, collect objects from around your living space such as rubber bands, popsicle sticks, string, paper scraps, buttons, etc.
- Container(s) or tray to display supplies.
- Any writing and coloring materials available, such as: pencil, color pencils, markers, crayons.
- Paper, or fabric bag for collecting natural materials outdoors.
- Child-friendly scissors. Please use with adult supervision.



**Art Making Process:**

- 1) **Brainstorm** together before going outside. Use questions from Activity 1 to get ideas and inspiration from the book. What image do you want to create out of collected materials? What shapes are present in your composition? What kinds of objects do you need to collect to represent your idea?
- 2) **Collect.** Go outdoors and collect materials such as stones, twigs, seeds, and colorful leaves. As a collecting guideline: It's okay to pick the 4 Fs: foliage, fruit, fungi, and flowers. Try to find objects of different shapes and sizes: round objects, elongated, colorful.
- 3) **Display materials on the table.** When children meet a new material, they need to freely explore it, getting to know its potential and its limitations. What can I make with this? What can I not make with this?

4) **Make.** Place your paper or cardboard underneath the picture frame. Invite your child to explore the shape, size, and color of the materials collected. Let your child play with the materials selected, making a composition on the cardboard. Encourage your child to narrow down the selection of materials they will use for their composition. How can these items be used to represent something on the canvas? Try these prompts:

- a. Make a picture of your family or friends.
- b. Make a home for Rama and her family.
- c. Write a welcoming word.

5) **Document and title.** Once the composition is finished, children can take a photo and title their work.

6) Put the used materials back into their container and start the process again and again. You can repeat the same activity and to keep it interesting you can gradually introduce some variants: for example cardboard bases of different formats or a selection of different materials.



Thank you for watching our HOME Story Time! We'd love to see your artworks and possibly display them on our websites. Send your artworks to Claudia's email: [corjuela@lyndensculpturegarden.org](mailto:corjuela@lyndensculpturegarden.org)

**Interesting links to learn more about turning pebbles into pictures:**

- Examples of children's art made of stones inspired by Nizar and *Stepping Stones*: <https://steppingstonethebook.com/gallery/>
- Nizar Ali Badr's making process: <https://videopress.com/v/JeAgraY7>