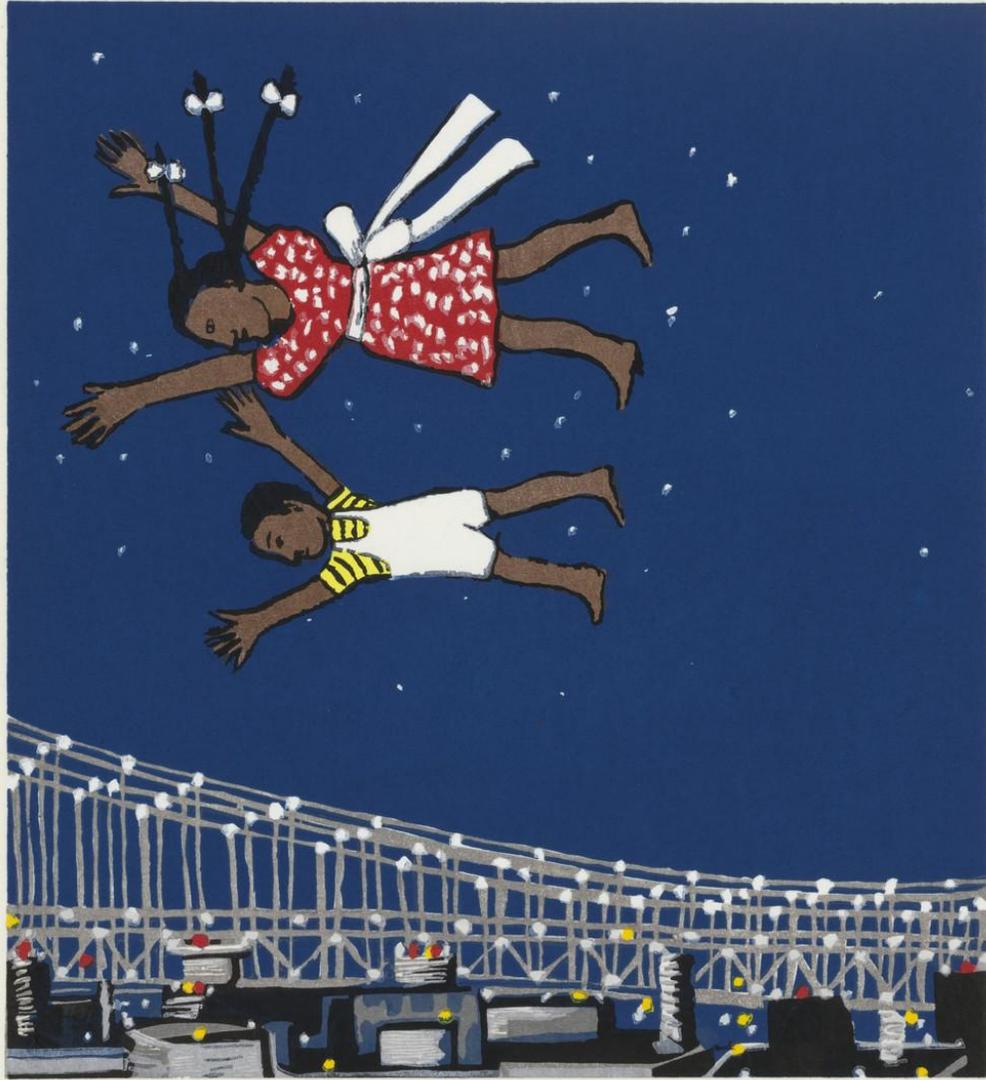


# Learn with MoMA



6/60

*Faith Ringgold 9/7/93*

## Step 1 Look closely

1. Who are the characters in this image, and what do you think they are doing?
2. Where do you think this scene is taking place?
3. Which elements do you think are real, and which are imagined? Why do you think so?

## Step 2 Learn more

In addition to being an artist, Faith Ringgold is an activist, teacher, speaker, professor, and the author and illustrator of many children's books. In her books she teaches children about important topics such as the Underground Railroad, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights movement.

*Tar Beach Woodcut* and the book *Tar Beach* were inspired by Faith Ringgold's story quilt [Woman on a Bridge #1 of 5: Tar Beach](#). In the book Cassie Louise Lightfoot gathers with her family and neighbors on their rooftop, referred to as Tar Beach; this was inspired by Faith Ringgold's memories of her own childhood. Cassie takes flight above the city as her family and neighbors eat and play cards. Ringgold used flying as a way to show that her characters felt a sense of freedom. She said that they are "actually flying; they are just free, totally."

Read Faith Ringgold's book, *Tar Beach*, or [watch](#) her reading the book.

## Step 3 Activity: Draw a feeling of freedom

Materials: pencil, paper, colored pencils, markers or crayons

1. Think of a moment when you felt truly free and happy.
2. Decide who will be in your story—family, friends, or someone special to you.
3. Think about how you felt in that moment. How will you represent the feeling of freedom? Think about using colors, textures, and other details to show this. Or you can add imaginary elements to convey this feeling, like how Faith Ringgold showed Cassie flying to portray her freedom.
4. Optional: Write a caption to go with your drawing to add more detail and description.

## Step 4 Share!

Share your artwork with a classmate and describe how you felt at that moment. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).



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