
Dorothea Lange:

Politics of Seeing Activities **B1** **B2**

Activity 1

Select one of the photographs from the slideshow and get ready to present it orally. You may start by whatever point you want, combine description and analysis, but your presentation must include all the following points:

- a brief description of the picture
- the context of the picture (*When? Where? What's going on?*)
- hypotheses about the people in the photo
- the photographer's point of view (*neutral, showing empathy..*) and intention
- the reason why you selected this particular photograph

Activity 2

A. Read the text your group has been assigned to.

B. Use different colours and underline:

1. personal information about Dorothea Lange and her private life
2. elements about her career as a photographer
3. the USA at the time
4. elements suggesting or showing she was a committed artist willing to have things change

C. Remember the following photographs and:

1. tick the photograph(s) your text refers to,
2. in the text, highlight the passage(s) referring to the corresponding photograph(s).

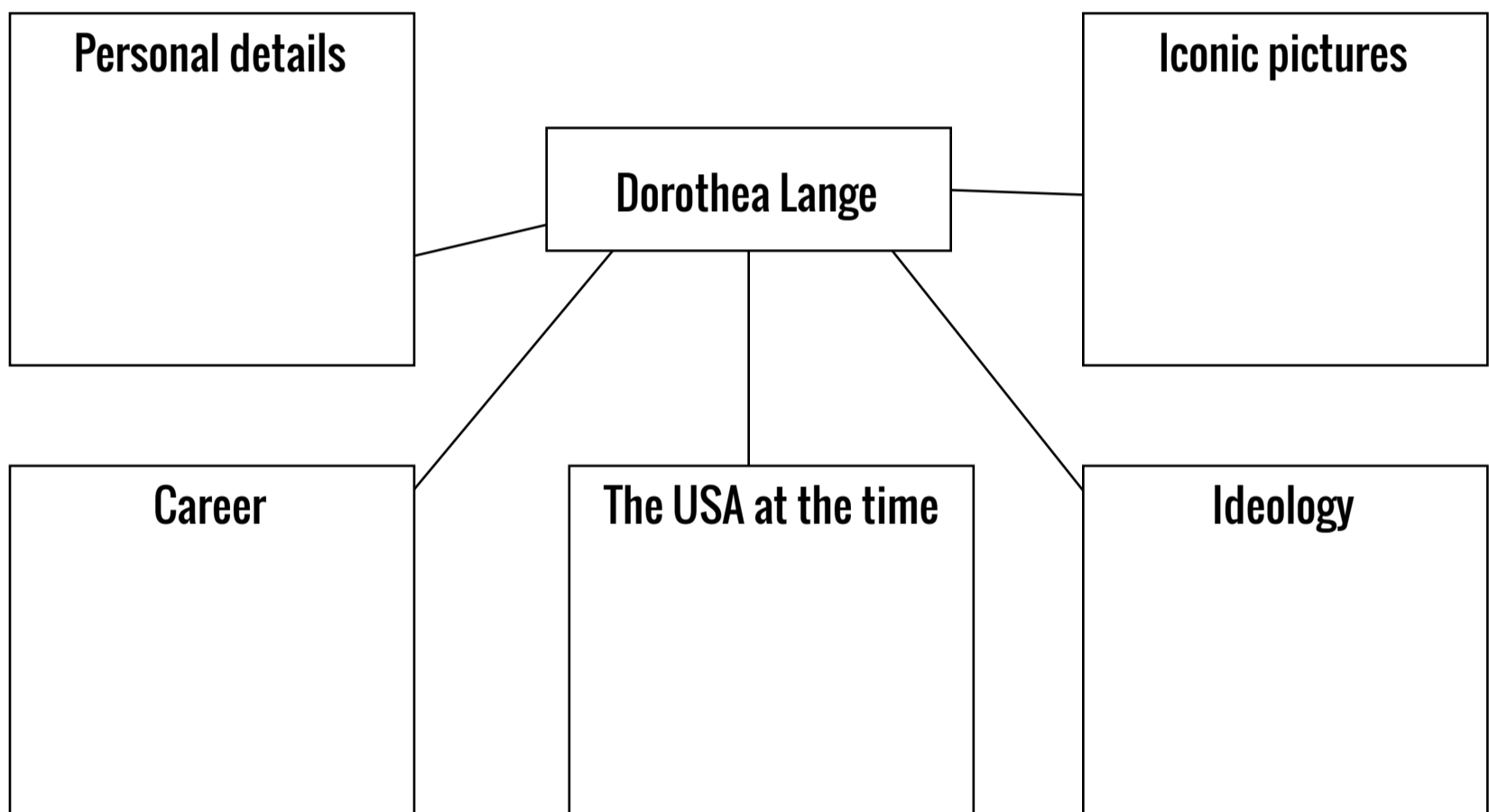


Activity 3

A. Get ready to recap the previous points (Activity 2) orally and share what you have learnt about Dorothea Lange and her work with a student from the other group.

Don't read passages from the text, you will have to rephrase and say things in your own words instead. You may use the spidergram below to help you.

Don't forget to tell him/her what you learnt about the photograph(s).



B. Complete your notes about Dorothea Lange and her photographs with what your partner from the other group tells you.

C. Discuss with your partner the title of the exhibition “Politics of Seeing” – How do you understand it? What does it mean? How could you explain it? Why was Dorothea Lange sensitive to all these subjects?

D. Using your notes, get ready to present Dorothea Lange and some of her pictures to the class.

Activity 4

Creative writing

Dorothea Lange wrote a record of the people she met, the places she went to and the photographs she took in a diary. Select one picture and write the corresponding page in Dorothea Lange's diary. In your production, you will have to:

- use the first person (you are Dorothea!)
- give some detail about the context of the photo. (*It was part of my work for... I was travelling through... I arrived in... It was early afternoon, I was...*)
- say a few words about the people in it. (*Did you speak to them? Who are they?...*)
- explain why you decided to take the picture. (*I felt concerned by... Because of... I made the decision to...*)
- reflect on art as a tool for change and mention your hopes. (*If only my pictures V-ed/ could... - I wish these people V-ed - I'm sure art can allow/enable to...*)

Activity 5

Prepare an oral presentation fitting the “Power – Types and Sites” notion of the curriculum and matching the exam's requirements (a 5 minute speech).

Introduce the notion, explain you are going to illustrate it with Dorothea Lange and her works and explain why you have chosen them for the task (this should lead you to announce the key points in your presentation).

Use elements from her biography to develop two or three key points to be linked to the notion and showing that art is a powerful tool and means to make things change.

Be persuasive suggesting that artists can be the voice of the downtrodden (powerless people) and have the power to move their audience and make them aware of social injustice.