

# Landmarks Guide for Older Children



## Louise Bourgeois

American, born in France, 1911–2010

### *Eyes*

1982

Marble

**Subject:** Symbolism

**Activity:** Labeling symbolic body parts

**Materials:** Large sheet of paper and colored pencils or crayons

**Vocabulary:** Carve, depict, symbolism

## **i** Introduction

Louise Bourgeois was a sculptor who was born in France but worked in the United States. Her career lasted for more than seventy years, and she worked as an artist until her death at the age of ninety-eight. Bourgeois was interested in how our deepest feelings and memories could be expressed through art. This sculpture depicts a pair of eyes and is carved from a large piece of marble. The eyes are often used as symbols of sight, and in turn the act of seeing is often symbolic of knowledge.

## **?** Questions

Can you think of anything else eyes might be symbolic of?

In what ways are these eyes different from a real set of eyes? How would they feel and work differently?

By making something very soft (eyes) out of something very hard (marble), how has the artist changed their meaning?

## Louise Bourgeois, continued

---



### Activity

Place a large piece paper on the floor. Using crayons or colored pencils, ask someone to help you trace an outline of your body onto the paper. Label the different parts of your body. Now label those parts with feelings or ideas that they may symbolize. For example, the eyes are often symbols of sight, and the heart is often a symbol of love. Are there certain experiences or emotions that you associate with different parts of your body?



### Vocabulary

**Carve** - To cut away from a surface

**Depict** - To represent by a picture

**Symbolism** - Representing an idea or concept through images