This vivid biography covers the life of French artist Henri Matisse. It highlights the stage of Matisse’s life after an illness left him mostly bedridden; when he replaced painting with cutting and arranging vivid shapes from colored paper. Matisse referred to this time as his “second life”, and Winter’s depiction of Matisse’s work is both beautiful and inspiring.

About the Author/Illustrator
Jeanette Winter is the author and illustrator of many books for children, most of which are nonfiction. She is the winner of multiple Parent’s Choice and Children’s Choice Awards, as well as two Notable Children’s Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies awards. [http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Jeanette-Winter/64041479](http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Jeanette-Winter/64041479)

Accompanying Activities

1. Art: Cut Paper Mobile
Students will use scissors, glue, and small squares of paper to create a classroom mobile using shapes similar to the ones Henri Matisse created in his later years.

   ● Creative expression/performance - The student expresses ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skill. The student is expected to:
     ○ Kindergarten TEKS: ART 117.2 (b) 2 C: Develop manipulative skills when drawing, painting, printmaking, and constructing artworks, using a variety of materials.
     ○ 1st Grade TEKS: ART 117.5 (b) 2 C: increase manipulative skills, using a variety of materials to produce drawings, paintings, prints, and constructions.
     ○ 2nd Grade TEKS: ART 117.8 (b) 2 C: identify and practice skills necessary for producing drawings, paintings, prints, constructions, and modeled forms, using a variety of art materials.

2. Technology Applications: Matisse’s Pieces
Students will use computers to color, rotate and arrange Matisse inspired shapes online. Completed projects may be saved to individual student files and/or may be printed for display.

Toy Theater Matisse’s Pieces Activity

   ● Communication. The student delivers the product electronically in a variety of media, with appropriate supervision. The student is expected to:
     ○ Kindergarten - 2nd Grade TEKS: TECH 126.2 (b) 11 A: publish information in a variety of media including, but not limited to, printed copy or monitor display.
Companion Books

Other Books by Jeanette Winter
The Librarian of Basra, Harcourt, 2005.
My Name is Georgia, Silver Whistle, 1998.

Other books about Henri Matisse

Digital Resources:
Publisher’s Website for Jeanette Winter: http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Jeanette-Winter/64041479
Toy Theater Matisse’s Pieces Activity http://www.toytheater.com/matisse-pieces.php