

A World of Girls

QUILTS THAT TELL STORIES

Faith Ringgold makes quilts that tell stories. “My ideas come from thinking about my life,” Faith says.

One of her quilts is called “Tar Beach.” It tells a story from Faith’s childhood of hot summer nights, when her father would put a mattress on the tar roof of their apartment building in New York City. Her mother would spread a sheet and put pillows on top of the mattress. Then Faith, her brother and sister and parents would lie down together on the roof to cool off. From so high up, they could see lots of tall buildings and the George Washington Bridge.

In her story quilt, an 8-year-old girl dreams of owning the tall buildings and the bridge, and helping her parents have a better life. Faith made her story of Tar Beach into a book, too.

Faith made her first painted quilt with her mother, Willi Posey, who taught her how to sew.

