

Primary Colors
(*Jacob Lawrence's migration series*)

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*My four-year-old delights in bold color;
she has no interest in figure or form.
Her brilliant swaths, which arc across the page,
gently move like an undulating sea.
She paints in the style of Jacob Lawrence,
who schooled us all in the fundamentals.*

*His women, in sky-blue dresses and caps,
stand in a row as they sew, press, and stir,
their clothes shimmering against their dark skin.
A corn-colored floor creeps up and joins seams
with a wall of bright blood behind them.
A perfect trio--red, yellow, and blue.*

*Lawrence well understood the primacy
of color: how it informs work and play.
Sophia, too, is drawn to its power
as she steers her paintbrush back and then forth
and coats the blank whiteness with solid hues.
A master's wisdom in a small girl's hand.*