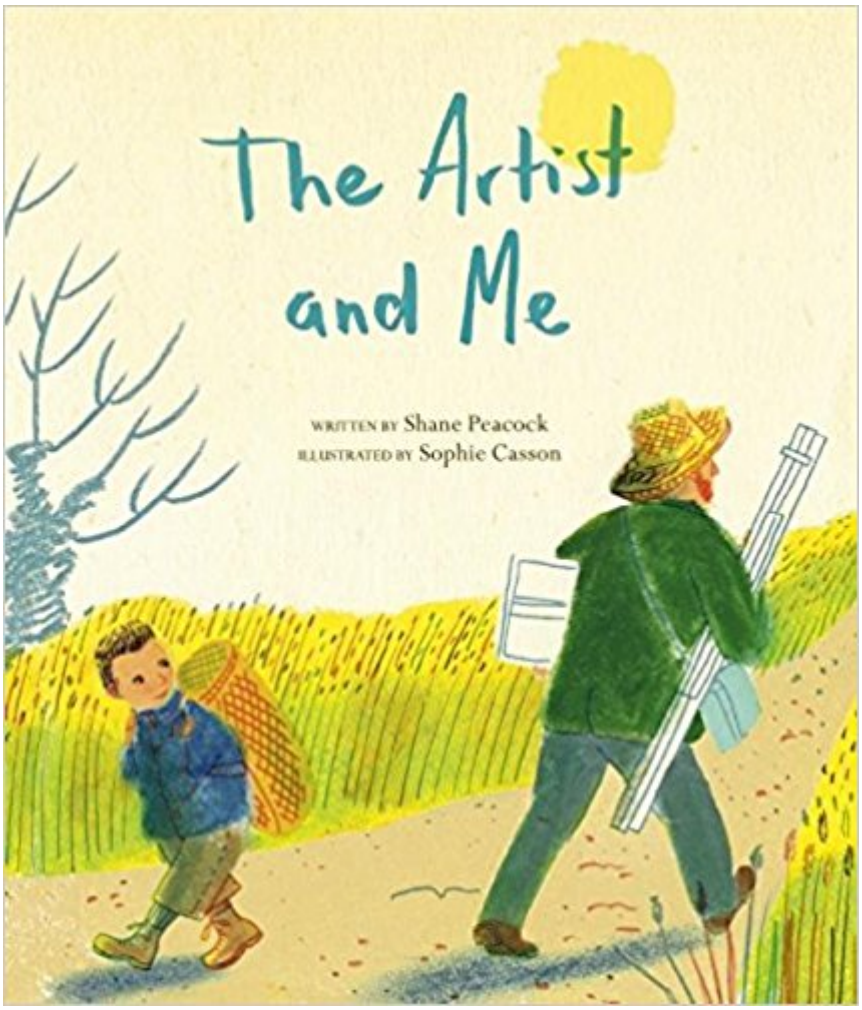
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The Artist And Me



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Synopsis

Vincent van Gogh is now known as an acclaimed, incomparable Post-Impressionist painter. But when he lived in Arles, France, in the 1880s, he was mocked for being different. Back then, van Gogh was an eccentric man with wild red hair who used clashing hues to paint unusual-looking people and strange starry skies. Children and adults alike called him names and laughed at him. Nobody bought his art. But he kept painting.Inspired by these events, The Artist and Me is the fictional confession of one of van GoghÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bullies — a young boy who adopted the popular attitude of adults around him. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not until the boy faces his victim alone that he realizes there is more than one way to see the world.Artwork in the book uses vibrant color and texture to bring the laneways, cafÃƒÂ©s, and wheat fields of southern France to life while playing on scenes from van GoghÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own work. The lyrical text carries the emotional weight of the subject and will leave readers with the understanding that everyoneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s point of view is valuable.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years
Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3-Vincent van Gogh is portrayed not merely as a groundbreaking artist but as the victim of ostracism in this intriguing treatment of bullying. An unidentified narrator records the story of "an

ugly thing" he did as a child in France. In a scrapbook, he writes his memories of a crazy man with wild red hair who was on a mission to "tell the truth by painting pictures." The children and even the adults in the community of Arles mocked the poverty-stricken, misunderstood artist. Although as a boy the narrator laughed along with the crowd, he admits that van Gogh's paintings often made him wonder. Years later, while visiting a Paris museum with his grandson, the man delights in the creative genius of the artist he once knew long ago. He doesn't laugh at van Gogh anymore. Printed in a font resembling handwriting, the text helps to personalize the lesson learned by the remorseful storyteller. Casson's vibrant illustrations, which feature a ProvenÃƒÂ§al palette of blues and yellows, draw readers into the French countryside, incorporating particular elements of van Gogh's own masterpieces. In one spread, for instance, Casson depicts the painter asleep on a narrow wooden bed in a room with cool blue walls: an echo of one of his most famous works, Bedroom in Arles. VERDICT This singular perspective on a troubling issue observed through the lens of art history delivers a meaningful message about individuality and tolerance.-Linda L. Walkins, Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, BostonÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

A Junior Library Guild SelectionOne of School Library Journal's Most Anticipated Titles for Spring 2016"Would be an excellent read aloud in an art class to kick off a lesson about Vincent van Gogh or in a regular classroom during a morning meeting about bullies and treating others as you would like to be treated. Recommended."Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Connection"Sincere thanks must go to the authors, illustrators and their publishers for providing children with the opportunity to be inspired by these legendary individuals through such fine publications."—Canadian Children's Book News, joint review"An obvious complement to art curricula, this book could also reinforce anti-bullying discussions at home and in the classroom."—The National Reading Campaign"Evocative...a useful classroom resource."—Canadian Review of Materials"Low-key yet powerful...simple, resonant, superb."—Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW"Delivers a meaningful message about individuality and tolerance."—School Library Journal"Poignant... a story about deceptive appearances."—Publishers Weekly"A real-life context for the effects of bullying, which will spark interest and encourage discussion."—Booklist"Beautifully and sparsely written, as well as vividly illustrated... makes its point quite eloquently."–Julie Danielson, Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast"Forthright and self-aware...about the battle between authenticity and conformity, integrity and capitulation--so much a part of growing up."—The Horn Book

If you want to introduce fine art to young children, this book is an excellent avenue for that. When I took art history in a Humanities class my senior year in High School I fell in love with art and wondered why it wasn't more a part of the curriculum. When I was headmistress of a private school, at Assembly each morning, we had a Masterpiece of the Week with the artists name and country he/she was from along with the name of the painting. Van Gogh really appealed to children. One of our kindergarten students was in NYC on the elevator where there was a poster advertising a Matisse exhibit, and the young child said to their parents: "Look, there's a Matissee!" his parents told me. They didn't know we were teaching art during the day. I made up a worksheet on the painting for the class to answer questions about it - finding objects in the painting, what colors used, how did it make them feel etc.? When I took my 10-year-old son and his friends to the art store and there were posters on display, they enjoyed going through them identifying different artists and their works.Similarly, this book is a fun way to introduce Van Gogh's life and work to young children. The illustrations capture the feel of Van Gogh's paintings and emotional appeal. It's the story of a young boy who taunts Van Gogh, but then realizes later how wrong he was. It's a very compelling plot and would prompt great discussion on kindness and accepting people's differences. A teacher or Principal can buy a calendar or inexpensive art book of Van Gogh's paintings and do a bulletin board display of Van Gogh's work and use the pages for display.I loved this book. When I finished it, I wanted to read it again. The illustrator uses some of Van Gogh's works - his bedroom at Arles for example - and puts Van Gogh into the bedroom. How clever!

Told from the point of view of a child in Arles, France, this book looks at how unique people in the world have their own way of viewing things. The boy joins with the adults in the town to mock and bully painter Vincent van Gogh. Van Gogh was seen as a wild man, living in poverty who wasted his days creating art that didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t sell and that went against everything that people knew about art. Yet he just kept on painting. The boy eventually finds himself in a field with the artist, suddenly seeing the world as something amazing and vibrantly colored rather than the same place it has always been. The artist offered the boy his painting but the boy refused, only to see it years later on the wall of a museum.Peacock has created a picture book about bullying but also about so much more. It is about the way that society reacts to a genius who refuses to follow their rules, who walks his own path through the fields, painting as he goes. The child is clearly following what the adults around him are saying. He is also intrigued in many ways by the strange artist and the way he lives. Plus he is drawn in by the paintings that he can glimpse. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a lovely

balance of rejection and attraction that makes the book surprising and effective.The art by Casson uses vibrant colors to capture the French countryside. The golden of the wheat fields, the purple of the sky, all tied together with reds and blues and add depth and even more color. The result is a different style than Van Gogh, but a nod to his use of color and sense of freedom.A book that works on many levels, this picture book looks at bullying, genius, art and the power of connection. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

I've read hundreds of children's books with my son, and this is one of my absolute favorites. I put it right up there with The Lorax and The Giving Tree for children's books that try to present more complex ideas and are artfully executed. It hits home too. There's more here than just an introduction to Van Gogh. It's really about having the passion and belief in yourself to create something even when other people think it's bad or wrong or crazy. The lessons are subtle but accessible. I can't say enough good about it.

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