



The Museum

Written by Susan Verde, Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

The Museum is a fun peek at all of the feelings a little girl has when she visits an art museum.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder why that girl is leaping in a museum?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- stifle - to not allow yourself to do or express something
- exhausted - to use all of someone’s mental or physical energy
- analyze - to study closely and carefully
- fragrant - having a pleasant and usually sweet smell
- collapse - to fall down or become unconscious because you are sick or exhausted
- canvas - a specially prepared piece of cloth on which a picture can be painted by an artist
- blank - without any writing, marks or pictures
- creation - the act of creating something
- elation - very happy and excited

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What happens in the girl’s heart when she sees a work of art?
- What does her body do when she sees a work of art?
- Does she sometimes take on the pose or feelings of the work of art when she looks at it?
- Can you mimic the frightful and silly faces like those shown in the paintings?
- What’s missing from the empty canvas?
- After the little girl closes her eyes, what does she see when she looks at the canvas again?
- How did the girl fill her blank canvas?
- How did she feel after making her creation?
- How do you feel when you create something?



DO

Create, just create!

Materials:

water based paints
paint brushes
colored pencils
pastels
markers
art paper – (water color or bristol works best)

Have students take a moment to just stare at their blank piece of paper. Ask them to close their eyes and pay attention to the shapes, colors and images that appear behind their eyelids. Then have them put those images down on paper. Encourage students to just enjoy the process of creating. Ask students how their creation makes them feel. Ask them to describe their creation and what they were thinking of before they created it. Ask them to name their art and sign it.

