This nonfiction book follows the lives and work of Alberto and Diego Giacometti, brothers and artists.

**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 what those two men are making?

**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 everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

**Rare Words**

- scales – climbs over something high and steep
- daredevil – a person who enjoys doing dangerous things
- sculpture – making 2D or 3D representations as art
- boarding school – a place where students both live and go to school
- Rodin – French sculptor known for The Thinker
- precious – an object of great value
- haunts – visits a place often
- spellbinding – holding someone’s attention so well, it’s as if you are using magic
- Surrealists – people who followed an art style that was meant to represent our unconscious mind
- Petty thievery – stealing smaller or less expensive items
- shiftless – acting lazy or lacking ambition
- tumbledown – a building or structure that is in ruins
- stubbornly – refusing to change your opinion or attitude
- minuscule – very small
- leaden – heavy with
- artillery – military equipment
- erupts - explodes
- decrepit – run down
- bleak – bare, sad
- prowl – moving in search of prey
- scarce – only existing in small amounts
DO

Biography

Two Brothers, Four Hands is a biography of two brothers. Biographies tell the story of someone’s life. To write your own, you could do research on someone or you could interview them. Pair up with a classmate and use the questions below, with some of your own, to learn about them. Then write up a story about their life.

What is your name?
Where were you born?
Where are you from?
How old are you?
Do you have any siblings?
What do you like to do after school?
What is your favorite book? Video game? TV Show?
Do you have any pets?
What do you want to be when you grow up?

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

• What were the two brothers like as children?
• What did each of them enjoy doing as young children?
• Who does Alberto make friends with in Paris?
• Why does Diego move to Paris?
• What is their first studio like?
• Who does Alberto spend five years sculpting? Why did he focus on the same person for so long?
• When Alberto struggles to sculpt, how large are his sculptures?
• Why do you think his sculptures become so small? What was his life like at this time? What was happening in the rest of the world?
• What was life like for Diego in Paris during the war? What did he spend his time doing?
• What was the studio in Paris like after the war, when Alberto returned to it?
• Describe Alberto’s new thin sculptures. What do you think they mean?
• How does Diego help Alberto with his new sculptures?
• Even after making money, why does Alberto stay in his small Paris studio?
• What did Diego work on in his own studio?
• After Alberto’s death, what does Diego do?