Inspiring Art
Chatterbooks activity pack
**Inspiring Art!**

**About this pack**

Here’s a Chatterbooks pack full of books and ideas about art — to inspire your groups in their reading and talking about and enjoyment of art, and in being artists themselves.

Here are

- Books about artists and their work
- Practical books about art – ideas and guidance for all kinds of art work
- Fiction with characters who are artists
- Books about exploring art and looking at pictures – and about the stories which pictures tell
- Picture books to inspire art activity
- Art-inspired discussion and activity ideas!

**Inspiring Art!** is brought to you by The Reading Agency and the publishing partnership **Children’s Reading Partners.**

**Chatterbooks** is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

**The Reading Agency** is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children — including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

**Children’s Reading Partners** is a national partnership of children’s publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many young people as possible.

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**Inspiring Art!**

Get together a **collection of books** about all the aspects of art you can find, for your group to browse and read and talk about.

Have a look at some of the **gallery websites** listed on page 19

If at all possible have a group outing to visit a **local art gallery**. Plan ahead about what you will look at there – it’s good to spend time with just a few pictures and other art works, really looking at them and talking about what you see in them and what they make you feel and think about.

If you can’t get to a gallery, you could **make your own gallery**. Collect favourite pictures, or maybe pictures on a theme – e.g. as postcards, or downloaded from the net – and make an exhibition on a display board. Again spend time looking and talking about the pictures.

**Invite a local artist** to meet with your group and talk about their work – and if possible run a hands-on workshop with them. It could be any form of art – e.g. painting, pottery, photography, sculpture, banner-making, cartoons.

**Things to talk about**

- Your favourite pictures – and your favourite kinds of pictures – and why you like them. These could be pictures on a wall, illustrations in a book, cartoons – anything!
- The art that people like doing themselves – e.g. painting, drawing, cartooning, doodling, collage, photography, computer images – again, anything!
- Do children in your group enjoy looking at art or creating art? What do they get out of it? What don’t they like about it?
Things to do

Quiz – Famous artists

See what you know about these artists – choose from a, b, or c. Each question can be used as a trigger for discussion and finding out more about the artist. The answers are at the end of this pack.

1. A famous painting by John Constable is called:
   a. The Red Tractor
   b. The Hay Wain
   c. The Police Station

2. Many of Vincent van Gogh’s paintings are of flowers – most well-known is:
   a. Sunflowers
   b. Rosebuds
   c. Bluebells

3. In later life Henri Matisse was ill and found it hard to paint, so instead he created brilliant pictures with:
   a. Photography
   b. Felt tips
   c. Cut-outs

4. Claude Monet was one of the founders of
   a. Post-modernist art
   b. French Impressionist painting
   c. The Bank of England

5. Edvard Munch, who painted ‘The Scream’ came from
   a. Norway
   b. U.S.A
   c. Austria
6. The American artist Jackson Pollock created his paintings by
   a. Painting with jelly
   b. Pouring and dripping paint on to a canvas, and sometimes adding sand or broken glass
   c. Building up a picture using dots

7. The Mona Lisa, in the painting by Leonardo da Vinci, is most famous for her
   a. Beautiful eyes
   b. Elegant hands
   c. Enigmatic smile

8. Andy Warhol, another American artist, painted 32 canvases, each showing a
   a. Marmite jar
   b. Campbell’s Soup can
   c. P.G.Tips tea packet

As well as finding out about the artists and paintings in the quiz above, you could also talk about why there are fewer well-known women artists – can your group name any female artists?

In the style of...
Choose a theme for everyone to paint or draw – eg. flowers, a street, a person, a countryside view, a tree....

Each person then chooses a famous artist and produces their picture in the style of that artist.

Your own style
Look at the picture books featured in this pack, including What’s Your Favourite Animal? (edited by Eric Carle) – and also make a collection of picture books by well-known artists – e.g.Janet Ahlberg, Quentin Blake, Michael Foreman, Shirley Hughes, Sarah McIntyre, Axel Scheffler. Talk about which you like best, and why.

Get children to have a go at making their own simple picture book – e.g. just 4 or 5 pictures, and a cover, illustrating a nursery rhyme; or perhaps a story about a colour or a shape
**Words and pictures 1**

Surveys in galleries have found that most people look at each picture in an exhibition for **just 15 seconds** and then move on to the next one. But when you get to know and love a painting you may come back and view it many times – adding up to hours spent thinking about and responding to the picture. This activity gives people a chance to spend a bit more time looking at a picture – do they find it’s made a difference to their appreciation and how they feel about it?

Choose some excerpts from poetry and stories which express feelings or an evocative picture. Write each piece of text on a separate card/paper. Below are some suggestions which you might use.

With your group, take these texts to a gallery, or use the gallery your group has created (see above). Give each person a piece of text and ask them to look round all the pictures/artworks and find one which for them most matches the text they’ve been given – allow at least 15 minutes for this.

Then go round the pictures together: everyone talks about the picture they have picked and why it connects for them with their text. This is a great way of really looking at pictures and thinking about what they say to you – it’s subjective, there are no ‘wrong’ answers, every response is valid.

Some suggested texts:

- *It’s spring when the world is puddle-wonderful* (e e cummings ‘In Just-’)

- *I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o’er vales and hills* (Wordsworth ‘The Daffodils’)

- *And evening full of the linnet’s wings* (Yeats ‘The Lake Isle of Innisfree’)

- *I have spread my dreams under your feet* (Yeats ‘He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven’)

- *You know what it’s like treading on Lego with your bare feet* (Michael Rosen ‘Chocolate Cake’)

- *Laughter is an egg with a crick-crack face* (John Agard ‘Laughter is an Egg’)

- *As I cried I kicked the wall, and took a hard twist at my hair; so bitter were my feelings, and so sharp was the smart without a name, that needed counteraction.* (‘Dickens ‘Great Expectations’)
**Words and pictures 2**
This could follow on from the above activity.
Ask everyone to choose the art work which affects them most – probably the one they like best but it may catch their attention for a different reason – and then to write a poem or a short piece of prose about it.
Everyone then shares what they have written – and it may be possible to display this writing next to the chosen pictures for others to read.

**Words and pictures 3**
This activity is similar to ‘Words and pictures 2’.
Choose one picture for everyone to look at – this works well with a picture with quite a bit going on in it. Talk about the picture together and on a flipchart collect everyone’s thoughts and ideas about the picture – words and phrases.
Then as a group, or individually, shape up these words and phrases into a story, or a poem, or create a storyboard.
Here’s an example of a group poem written by Year 6 children looking at the picture *Westminster Bridge* by Monet, with author Nicola Davies.

A bitter shivery morning
The smell of oily smoke and the sharp nose-wrinkling pong of the river
The water laps like a thirsty dog
And the crisp leaves rustle like crackling flames.
You might hear Fred and George nattering on the wharf
About the pretty barmaid in The Rose last night.

Or you might hear the chugging tug boats
Battling for first place to Tower Bridge.
Behind them the trit trot of carts
Carrying oysters, potatoes, fresh veg to the restaurants up town.
Big Ben calls the sunrise from the mist.
London is awake.

**Words and pictures 4 – linking pictures and books**
There are different ways you might do this:

- As you look at pictures with your group, ask them if any remind them of books and stories they have read – talk about what it is that reminds them, and the connections made
- Invite an author to meet with your class, and talk about a picture which they feel resonates with their writing.
Making your own art!

Make a group collage, using different papers and fabrics and with lots of shapes, colours and textures. Be inspired by Matisse!

Create your group’s own ‘Jackson Pollock’! Either outside, or on covered floor space, put a large sheet of paper or a canvas, with room for everyone to stand round it, to share in making the picture. Get different coloured poster paints in containers - eg. plastic ice cream boxes, yoghurt pots with small holes in the bottom, squeezy plastic bottles. Fix paint brushes on string and tie tennis balls in the feet of stockings/tights. Use all of these to drip, squirt, swing and swirl paint across the picture. Really good fun and your group’s own piece of art!

Have a look at the great art books featured in this pack – there are masses of inspiring ideas for young people to create their own works of art. See the sections on Doing Art in the book lists below.
Inspiring Art!

Picture Books

Allan Ahlberg & Bruce Ingman  The Pencil
Walker 978-1406319552
A pencil draws a boy, a dog, a cat and a whole world for them to play in. Then the pencil draws a brush, and the brush adds colour to everything. Everyone is very happy, until the pencil draws a rubber ... which begins rubbing everything out!

Allan Ahlberg has won numerous awards for his books including the Kurt Maschler Award, and the Blue Peter Book Award 2001. He has co-created many well-loved picture books including Each Peach Pear Plum and the Happy Families series.

Once there was a pencil, a lonely little pencil, and nothing else.
It lay there, which was nowhere in particular, for a long long time.
Then one day that little pencil made a move, shivered slightly, quivered somewhat...and began to draw.

Marta Altés  I Am an Artist  Macmillan
978-1447202608
Meet the boy who can’t stop creating art! He loves colours, shapes, textures and EVERYTHING inspires him: his socks, the contents of the fridge, even his cat gets a new coat (of paint!). There’s just one problem: his mum isn’t quite so enthusiastic. But this boy has a plan to make his mum smile. He’s about to create his finest piece yet and on a very grand scale . . . Funny, irreverent and perfect for creative children and adults, this sharp, silly, fabulous book shows that Art is EVERYWHERE!

Marta Altés is the award-winning creator of My Grandpa. She studied for a degree in Graphic Design in Barcelona, then moved to the UK to study at Cambridge School of Art, graduating in 2011. Since then she has won the Read It Again! Award and the Nottingham Children’s Book Award and her first book No! was shortlisted for the Waterstone’s Picture Book Prize. Marta lives in London.

I am SO talented,
I just can't help it.
EVERYTHING inspires me!
I love NATURE COLOURS MOVEMENT TEXTURES and SHAPES.
But there’s just one problem...
my mum.
Aaron Becker  *Journey*  Walker  978-1406355345

A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure and danger abound. Red marker pen in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon and a flying carpet which carry her on a spectacular journey. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free.

In this exquisitely illustrated, wordless book, an ordinary child is launched on an extraordinary, magical journey towards her greatest and most rewarding adventure of all...

Aaron Becker has worked as an artist for film studios such as Lucasfilm, Disney and Pixar, and with *Journey* he has created characters and worlds of his very own, using traditional materials and techniques. He lives in the USA in Amherst, Massachusetts - visit Aaron online at [www.storybreathing.com](http://www.storybreathing.com)

See also Aaron's second picture book *Quest* (Walker 97814060813) - another visually stunning, wordless adventure story featuring two friends and their magical markers.

Anthony Browne & Hanne Bartholin  *Frida and Bear*  Walker  978-1406353990

Frida and Bear both love to draw - but what? First, Frida draws a shape. Bear adds to it and turns it into a picture. Then Bear draws a shape for Frida as the game begins again.

Anthony Browne and Hanne Bartholin celebrate the power of imagination and the importance of creativity in this delightful picture book that invites the reader to join in and play the *shape game* with them.

Anthony Browne has won many prizes for his work, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2000, for his services to children's literature. In 2009-11 he was the Children's Laureate.

Have a look too at Anthony's *The Shape Game* (Corgi 978-0552546966) – and see More reading on page 22 of this pack for details of more of his books – all of them have intriguing images, with visual references often linking to famous pictures.
Dick Bruna  **Miffy at the Gallery**  Simon & Schuster
978-1471120770

Miffy convinces her parents to take her to an art gallery. It is very exciting, Miffy sees paintings, a mobile and even a stone statue. At the end of the day Miffy decides she wants to be an artist when she’s grown up. Award-winning UK poet, Tony Mitton, has worked closely with Dick Bruna’s Dutch publisher to create new translations for the classic Miffy stories that are true to the books’ original voice, and yet have a contemporary feel to the language that makes them appealing to the modern young audience.

Dick Bruna used to tell his son stories about a little white rabbit who lived in the garden of their holiday home – this little rabbit soon became known to the world as Miffy. Dick has written and illustrated 124 books, which have sold over 85 million copies in 50 languages.

Look at how much can be conveyed through these simple drawings. There are also some great Miffy drawing and sticker books – for details see ‘Further reading/Doing Art’ on page 22 in this pack

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Peter H. Reynolds  **The Dot**  Walker
97818444281695

"Just make a mark and see where it takes you." Vashti says she can’t draw, but her teacher thinks she can. She knows there’s creative spirit in everyone, and encourages Vashti to sign the angry dot she makes in frustration on a piece of paper. This act makes Vashti begin to perceive herself differently, and see that where there’s a dot there’s a way...

Peter H. Reynolds is an author/illustrator and director of his own production company, which creates innovative, animated materials for the educational market-place. Peter lives in Massachusetts, USA.

Two more books to enjoy from Peter H. Reynolds are

- **Ish** (Walker 978-1844282968) where we learn that a drawing doesn’t have to look exactly like anything - it can simply look anything-ish.
- **Sky Colour** (Walker 978-1406353440) - a gentle, playful reminder that if we keep our hearts open and look beyond the expected, creative inspiration will come.
Valerie Thomas & Korky Paul  Winnie’s Dinosaur Day
OUP  978-0-19-279403-1

Winnie the Witch and her big cat Wilbur loved to visit the museum. It was full of fascinating things..., especially in the dinosaur room. When an exciting competition is announced to draw or make a model of a dinosaur Winnie can’t wait to take part. But what did dinosaurs look like? Winnie waves her magic wand to transport herself and Wilbur back into the time of the dinosaurs...

Valerie Thomas has lived in Australia for most of her life. Her special hobby is travelling, and she has travelled to most parts of the world, even Antarctica, but she doesn’t travel by broomstick.

Korky Paul was born in South Africa. In 1976 as Korky puts it he "fled for Europe" and got a job illustrating and designing educational books in Greece. He then worked for an advertising agency in London and Los Angeles, and studied film animation at Cal Arts in California. He works in Oxford and summers in Greece.

Be inspired by Winnie and Wilbur and go with your Chatterbooks group to your local museum – with your sketchbooks!

Chris Van Allsburg  The Mysteries of Harris Burdick
Andersen  978-1849392792

"His disappearance is not the only mystery left behind. What were the stories that went with these drawings? There are some clues..." Who is Harris Burdick? Where did he disappear to? And how was he going to finish his stories?

Chris Van Allsburg presents a series of loosely related drawings – surreal and beautiful and each accompanied by a title and a caption which the reader may use to make up his or her own story.

Chris Van Allsburg lives in Providence, Rhode Island and lectures at the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a sculptor and artist, and twice winner of the Caldecott Medal, first for Jumanji, and then for The Polar Express. Both of these books have been made into films.

This is the perfect book for stimulating creative and imaginative writing. The drawings are described as ‘the pieces of a picture puzzle, clues to larger pictures – with the answers lying in our imaginations and in the stories we might create.

Ask children each to choose a drawing with its caption and make up their own story about what happens next.

Here are two of the ’mysteries’:

UNINVITED GUESTS: His heart was pounding. He was sure had seen the doorknob turn.

A STRANGE DAY IN JULY: He threw with all his might, but the thord stone came skipping back.
Fiction about Art

Frank Cottrell Boyce & Steven Lenton

**Framed**  Macmillan  978-1447265573

The perfect crime... Dylan lives in the tiny Welsh town of Manod. His parents run a garage - and Dylan is in charge of the petrol log. This means he gets to keep track of everyone coming in and out of Manod. But when a mysterious convoy of lorries trundles up the misty mountainside towards an old, disused mine, even Dylan is confounded. Who are these people - and what have they got to hide?

This story was inspired by a press cutting describing how, during World War II, the treasured contents of London's National Gallery were stored in Welsh slate mines. Once a month, a morale-boosting masterpiece would be unveiled in the village and then returned to London for viewing. A funny and touching exploration of how Art - its beauty and its value - touches the life of one little boy and his big family in a very small town.

**Frank Cottrell Boyce** lives in Merseyside. His first book, *Millions*, won the CILIP Carnegie Medal in 2004 and has been made into a movie directed by Danny Boyle (with a screen-play written by Frank). Frank's latest book is *The Astounding Broccoli Boy*.

At the end of the book there is some interesting Bonus Material and also Questions for Discussion, devised especially for Chatterbooks groups

Cathy Brett  Graphic  Barrington Stoke

978-1781122143

Joe is a keen artist, with a massive crush on Honey. Unfortunately Honey is dating Cal and he is nothing but a bully. When Joe imagines all the horrible things that could happen to Cal and draws them, horrible things begin happening - and other drawings start to appear before his very eyes. Is it possible he could literally draw his dreams into reality?

This book is particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers of 12+

*Three times I had drawn stuff in my book and three times it had become real...I’d either discovered something really dangerous or something totally brilliant.*

**Cathy Brett** has travelled the world working in theatre, fashion, design and children's books. Cathy also writes animation film scripts, graphic novels and illustrates other people's books, in between blogging, teaching design and touring around the country.

Have a look too at *Cartoon Kings* by Alan Silberberg (Simon & Schuster 978-0857071934) where cartoons come to life.

Look at a picture in a gallery, or in one of the art books in your collection, and get everyone to imagine what could happen if the picture came to life.
The only beautiful thing in Ivy's drab life is her glorious red hair. At a young age, her locks made her the target of Carroty Kate, a 'skinner'. She recruited Ivy to help her coax wealthy children away from their nannies so that she could strip them of their clothes - clothes worth a fortune in the markets of Petticoat Lane. It is years before Ivy escapes and finds her way back to her in-laws. Once there, she finds respite in laudanum. But then Ivy is spotted by a wealthy pre-Raphaelite painter. Oscar Fosdick needs a muse. To him, Ivy is perfect, a stunner. But not everyone is happy. Oscar's mother is determined to get rid of Ivy. Oscar's famous neighbour is determined to paint her. Carroty Kate is determined to find her, and Ivy herself is determined to escape . . .

Looking down over the slope of her crinoline, Mrs Larrington found her gaze being met by a little scrap of indeterminate age. A small girl with huge hazel eyes and a veritable halo of tangled hair. It was a cross between a nest and a cloud, that hair, and such an extraordinary colour that Mrs Larrington's gloved hand moved instinctively to stroke it.

Julie Hearn was a journalist, writing for papers and journals in Australia, Spain and England. She did a Master of Studies at Oxford University in Women's Studies and an idea for her thesis became her inspiration for Follow Me Down, her first book. She lives in Oxfordshire.

Find out about the Pre-Raphaelite artists from books and the internet – you’ll find quite a bit on the Tate website - especially about this recent exhibition

And there may well be Pre-Raphaelite pictures on view in your local gallery. Talk about the subjects of these paintings – and their colour and detail. Do you like them?

Look at the women portrayed – often ‘stunners’ like Ivy with brilliant red hair.

Michael Morpurgo & Francois Place  Meeting Cezanne

When Yannick learns that he is to stay with his Aunt Mathilde in the South of France, he cannot believe his luck. If the paintings of his mother’s beloved Cezanne are to be believed, surely Provence is paradise itself. So begins an idyllic month for the young boy but when an important local comes for dinner, Yannick accidentally destroys a precious drawing the man leaves behind. Yannick is devastated by what he has done, and resolves to put things right. But in so doing he makes a surprising discovery.

Michael Morpurgo has won many prizes, including the Smarties Prize, and the Blue Peter Book Award for Private Peaceful, which also runs as a play devised by Bristol Old Vic. From 2003 to 2005 he was the Children's Laureate, and in 2005 he was named the Booksellers Association Author of the Year.
James Patterson  *Middle School: Save Rafe!*
Hachette/Young Arrow  978-0099596394

After a rough summer, Rafe is heading back to the dreaded Hills Village Middle School, the site of the very worst years of his life. And he’s going to be held back a year unless he can prove himself on an outdoor survival excursion – with dangerous white-water rafting, dizzying rock climbing and military style counsellors. Rafe’s ‘therapy’ is art – the book is packed with his comic-style sketches of his adventures.

I could tell she wanted to see what I was drawing, but I kept that sketch pad closed tight. I wasn’t ready for anyone to see my Loozer comics yet, especially the parts about Leo the Silent. … If you know my story, then you might have started wondering where Leo’s been. I still talk to him, but mostly these days, I do it in my art...

James Patterson  *Treasure Hunters*
Hachette/Young Arrow  978-0099567622

The Kidd siblings have grown up diving down to shipwrecks and travelling the world, helping their famous parents recover everything from swords to gold doubloons from the bottom of the ocean. But after their parents disappear on the job, the kids are suddenly thrust into the biggest treasure hunt of their lives. They’ll have to work together to defeat dangerous pirates and dodge the hot pursuit of an evil treasure-hunting rival – and track down a shipwreck full of gold, long-lost artefacts and world-famous paintings – and their missing parents.

*Talk about impressive. The walls were covered with very colourful and very rare paintings – all of them displayed in ornate golden frames, the kind with lots of swirls and curlicues.*

James Patterson is the author of the internationally bestselling *Middle School* and *I Funny* books, *Confessions of a Murder Suspect*, and the *Maximum Ride* series. In 2010, James Patterson was voted Author of the Year at the Children’s Choice Book Awards in New York. He lives in Florida.

Have a go at these great activity sheets inspired by these books!
And here, all alone on the million billion miles of midnight is one solitary moving speck. A fragile parcel, filled with sleeping people and their dreams. A ship.

Astra’s family are all snoring in their sleeping pods aboard their spaceship, but Astra is WIDE AWAKE. With her robot friend, Pilbeam, she goes off exploring and finds that the ship is in deep trouble. It’s been knocked off course and invaded by a gang of Poglites, an alien salvage crew searching for spoonage (they just LOVE collecting spoons)! There is something far more sinister lurking in the canteen. Sure, they’re cakes; but no one would describe them as sweet.

Philip Reeve is the Carnegie award-winning writer of the Mortal Engines quartet and Here Lies Arthur. He lives on Dartmoor in Devon.

Sarah McIntyre is a leading illustrator and comics artist – her books include There’s a Shark in the Bath, and Oliver and the Seawigs, another co-creation with Philip Reeve. From Seattle she now lives in London.

Here are some lovely activity sheets for Cakes in Space, including PDFs with drawing tips – and an interview with Sarah McIntyre.

Look at how the words and pictures work together in this book – talk about how they are equally important in telling the story. Find out about #PicturesMeanBusiness and discuss in your group.

Chris Riddell is the Carnegie award-winning writer of the Mortal Engines quartet and Here Lies Arthur. He lives on Dartmoor in Devon.

Chris Riddell has illustrated many acclaimed books for children and has won the Unesco Award, has twice won the Kate Greenaway medal and has been shortlisted for the Kurt Maschler Award. He is also a political cartoonist for the Guardian and the Observer. Together with Paul Stewart, he is the creator of the hugely successful Edge Chronicles, and the award-winning Far-Flung Adventures.

Some great activities here too, including How to draw a Ghostly Mouse!
Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and longlisted for the 2015 Carnegie Medal, Kim Slater's outstanding debut, *Smart*, is moving and compelling novel with a loveable character at its heart.

'I found Jean's friend dead in the river. His name was Colin Kirk. He was a homeless man, but he still wanted to live.'

There's been a murder, but the police seem not to care. It was only a homeless old man after all. Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened to Colin. And to his grandma, who just stopped coming round one day. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation, and knows all the detective tricks of the trade. But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.

Kim Slater has an MA in Creative writing and this is her first book. She lives in Nottingham and takes her literary inspiration from everyday life.

Kieran is especially inspired by the artist L.S.Lowry and makes lots of references to his paintings. There are two ways of drawing people. One is to sketch their faces like a photograph, so it looks exactly like them in real life... The other way is even cleverer, and it is the way that Lowry drew faces, including his own. You have to look at someone and really see them. Not the size of their nose or the colour of their eyes, but what lies underneath their features.

In your group, together collect all the Lowry references in this book, find out more about Lowry and his pictures, and talk about if you agree with Kieran about this artist.

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Jessica and Natalie are best friends again, but things have changed a bit. Jessica's got new friends now and the comic that they've put together has just launched in school to great acclaim. Jess is really enjoying her new-found fame and starts to neglect the wildlife project she's doing with Natalie. But Scarlett, a new cartoonist on the block, is after her comic crown. It's felt-tip pens at dawn!

Catherine Wilkins is a writer and comedian. She lives in London. She writes jokes and stories which she performs around the country to strangers in the dark, trying to make them laugh. Catherine has always wanted to write funny stories for children and is finding the whole process more exciting than that time she bungee jumped.
What are your favourite comics and cartoons?
Your group could have a go at creating their own comic. Have a look at our Chatterbooks pack about comics and cartoons!

Art and artists

Laurence Anholt
The Magical Garden of Claude Monet
Frances Lincoln 978-1845071363
When Julie’s dog disappears into a mysterious garden, Julie follows him - and finds herself in a beautiful garden-within-a-garden where the roses grow like splashes of paint and a Japanese bridge bows over a silent pool. There she finds not only her dog, but also Claude Monet. The famous artist introduces her to his work and his garden, giving her encouragement that the young would-be artist will never forget. Set against the romantic, world-famous backdrop of Monet’s garden at Giverny, the story is accompanied by reproductions of the artist’s most celebrated paintings and a biographical note on Monet.

Laurence Anholt is part of a husband-and-wife team who have worked together on more than 60 picture books, including the Chimp and Zee series. He is a much sought after public speaker, appearing at conferences such as the European Council of International Schools Conference, and the Edinburgh Festival.

This book is from the series Anholt’s Artists – other artists featured in the series include Cezanne, Da Vinci, Degas, Picasso and Van Gogh

Karen Ball & Rosie Dickins; Christa Unzner (ill.)
Leonardo da Vinci  Usborne  978-0746074428
Young Leonardo loves drawing and inventing things. This talent takes him to Florence, a city buzzing with great artists and thinkers. It is the start of a brilliant career. Son Leonard’s amazing artistic and engineering skills are in demand all over Italy.

Karen Ball is a bestselling author and editor. She lives in Southern Oregon. Christa Unzner has illustrated many children’s books, including young people's retelling of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. She lives in Nicaragua.

...an order for a new portrait was waiting for him. The woman’s name was not recorded, but legend has it she was a merchant’s wife named Lisa. Gradually, on a small wooden panel, her face began to take shape. Leonardo spent ages trying to capture her modest half-smile. He got her to pose for days on end, hiring musicians and jesters to entertain her.
Susie Brooks  
*Get Into Art: Stories.*
Discover great art and create your own!
Kingfisher  978-0753437421

This is one of a children’s activity series that explores a wide range of artists’ work while encouraging children to develop their own skills and techniques.

Get into Art! is perfect for active young artists of all abilities. The book features twelve artworks, with information about the work and the artist. Lift the flap to reveal an art project inspired by the work. These projects are varied, intriguing and clearly explained and will act as a springboard for plenty of artistic experiments. Readers can combine their practical activity and creativity with discovering a wealth of fine art.

Susie Brooks has a first class history of art degree and has worked as an editor and writer of children’s non-fiction and picture books for over ten years. She's an artist herself and sometimes runs art workshops with young children. She lives in Edinburgh.

See the other Get Into Art books in this series: Animals; People; Places.
There are some lovely ideas for creative work, including ‘Stitch your own sailing scene’, ‘Illustrate your favourite fairy tale with a silhouette’, inspired by Edward Hopper ‘Think up your own story to illustrate in a mysterious scene’ – and ‘Make a swirling Icarus mobile’, inspired by Matisse’s cut-outs.

Eric Carle (editor)  
*What’s Your Favourite Animal?*
Walker  978140636004

This is a great book about picture book illustration! – it brings together some of the finest modern children’s book illustrators of our time - Jon Klassen, Eric Carle, Lucy Cousins, Nick Bruel, Susan Jeffers, Steven Kellogg, Tom Lichtenheld, Peter McCarty, Chris Raschka, Peter Sís, Lane Smith, Erin Stead, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems - Eric Carle asks, "What's your favourite animal?" and the result is an astonishingly colourful parade of animals, from giraffes with their heads in the clouds to fuzzy dogs and squishy snails.

Eric Carle, author and illustrator, is most famous for his picture book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which has been translated into over 30 languages worldwide. He is also the founder of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, a non-profit organization set up to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books, to which all the royalties from this book will go.
Some artists reveal their choices with a personal story, others with a comic turn; all will undoubtedly inspire children to draw and tell a story about their own favourite animal!

James Mayhew  Katie’s Picture Show  Orchard  978-1843623977
Katie visits the gallery for the first time with Grandma and discovers that art is wonderfully exciting, especially when five famous paintings come alive for her! Join the ever-curious Katie as she discovers that art can be fantastic fun - particularly when you step into the world inside the frame . . .

James Mayhew is the creator of the best-selling Katie and Ella Bella books. Katie and the Mona Lisa will be presented as a musical stage play at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe, while a new Ella Bella title inspired by Mendelssohn’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream will be published this year.

Ask the children in your group to imagine they are one of the people in a painting featured in this book – ask them each to say something about who they are and how they came to be in the painting.

Alexander Sturgis & Lauren Child (ill.)  Dan’s Angel  Frances Lincoln  978-0711218857
Here’s a detective’s guide to the language of paintings. The narrative explores the message of 12 masterpieces, and teamed with the original illustrations of Lauren Child, this makes a fun and highly enjoyable introduction to a fascinating subject. When young Dan finds himself locked inside a museum after closing hours, he discovers a world of art he’d never dreamed possible. An angel steps out of a painting and takes him on an exploratory tour of the great masterpieces – explaining the symbolism of each painting. For the first time, Dan begins to understand the messages of paintings and the stories behind them. It’s not long before he too is speaking their language.
Alexander Sturgis was an education officer and programmes curator at the National Gallery, London, until 2005. He is now Director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. He is also a magician, performing under the name of The Great Xa. He lives in London.
Lauren Child is one of the top children’s author-illustrators in the UK. Her Charlie and Lola series of picture books have been made into a BBC television series. She lives in Hampstead in London.
The pictures featured in this book include Rembrandt Belshazzar’s Feast, Lorrain The Judgement of Paris, Van Gogh Sunflowers, Picasso Weeping Woman, and Jackson Pollock.
Lavender Mist. Look up some of these pictures in the internet – they are all in the National Gallery in London

Several of these pictures would work well with the Words and Pictures activities on page 6 of this pack.

Rosie Dickins  The Usborne Book of Art
Usborne  978-1409583011
This splendid book contains hundreds of works of art from the world’s major collections. Photographs or artworks are combined with text, a timeline, biographic details of major artists, and an extensive glossary of key terms.

Rosie Dickins studied literature at Oxford University, and art in Paris. She now works for Usborne Publishing and is the author of over forty fiction and non-fiction children’s books, including award-winning art books.

For links to websites where you can see more works, and access online games and activities check out Usborne’s quicklinks page

Dorling Kindersley  The Children’s Book of Art  978-1405336598
An introduction to the world’s most amazing artworks - from Andy Warhol to Jackson Pollock and Michelangelo, introduce children to the complete picture of art through the ages and across the world. Look beyond the paint and canvas, metal and stone, to find out how the art was created and why it was made. There is also inspiration for children to create their own art with fun projects to try themselves.

‘Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt...’ (Leonardo da Vinci)

Look at pages 8 & 9 in this book which ask ‘What is art?’ There are some great discussion points here for your group – and see if they can add more thoughts about art to the mix!

Ian Zaczek  In the Picture With – Mary Cassatt
Wayland  978-0750284561
This book tells of the life and works of Mary Cassatt, including an examination of her paintings such as The Child’s Bath, Young Woman Sewing in a Garden, Family Group Reading and The Boat Party. It looks at the techniques and colour palette that Cassatt used in these works, encouraging readers to look more closely at the interesting elements of each painting. There is a timeline of her life, and information on museums and galleries where her work is currently displayed.

In The Picture With is a series introducing the lives and works of great painters and other artists featured in this series are Van Gogh, Cezanne, da Vinci, and Manet.
Iain Zaczek was born in Dundee, Scotland. He specializes in books about art and design, and his many books include: The Impressionists, Essential Art Deco, Celtic Art and Design, and The Art of Illuminated Manuscripts.

The book also gives children a chance to use what they have learned to make their own painting in the style of Mary Cassatt.

More Reading

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<th>Title</th>
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<td><strong>Picture Books</strong></td>
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<td>Anthony Browne</td>
<td>A Walk in the Park</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>978-1406341645</td>
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<td>Dick Bruna</td>
<td>‘Miffy’ series</td>
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<td>Eric Carle</td>
<td>The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse</td>
<td>Puffin</td>
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<td>Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jefferens</td>
<td>The Day the Crayons Quit</td>
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<td>Art &amp; Max Have a go with this</td>
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<td>discussion guide</td>
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<td><strong>Looking at Pictures</strong></td>
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<td>Quentin Blake</td>
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<td>James Mayhew</td>
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<td><strong>Doing Art</strong></td>
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<td>Joanna Basford</td>
<td>Secret Garden</td>
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<td>Miffy on Holiday (Sticker art)</td>
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<td>Sharna Jackson</td>
<td>Tate Kids Modern Art Activity Book</td>
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<td>Julia Kuo</td>
<td>Twenty Ways to Draw a Cat</td>
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<td>Susan Schwake</td>
<td>3D Art Lab for Kids</td>
<td>Quarry Books</td>
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<td>F Watt and C Whatmore</td>
<td>Step by Step Drawing Animals</td>
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<td>Have a go with these activity sheets</td>
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### Fiction about Art

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<td>Meg Cabot</td>
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<td>Andy Griffiths</td>
<td><em>The 13-Storey Treehouse</em> See ‘Gobstoppers’ Chatterbooks pack*</td>
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<td>Rachel Renee Russell</td>
<td><em>Dork Diaries – TV Star</em></td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>978-1471143953</td>
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### Some websites about art, artists, galleries, and children’s book illustration

**Dulwich Picture Gallery**

**National Gallery**

**Tate**

For more links to websites where you can see artists’ work, and access online games and activities go to [www.usborne.com/quicklinks](http://www.usborne.com/quicklinks)

**CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal** – Shadowing Site: read about the 2015 shortlisted illustrators and watch clips of them talking about their books

**The Big Draw** – The Big Draw is the world's largest drawing festival with thousands of enjoyable, and mainly free, drawing activities which connect people of all ages with museums, outdoor spaces, artists, designers, illustrators - and each other. These events are for those who love to draw, as well as for those who think they can't! The 2015 Big Draw will take place October 1 - October 31. The theme will be announced to the public on 23 April.

### Quiz – Famous artists: Answers

1b, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5a, 6b, 7c, 8b