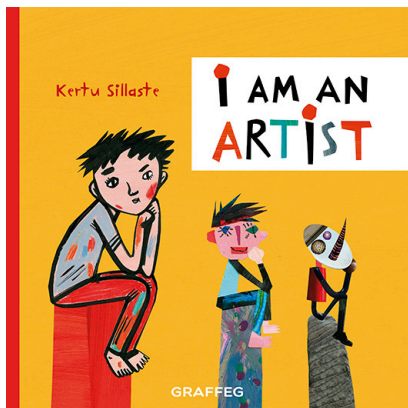


I am an Artist



Author: Kertu Sillaste
Age: 5-7
Format: Paperback
Language: English
Size: 250 x 250mm
Publication date: August 2021
Price: £7.99

Front cover

Discussion

What is the title of the story?

Kertu Sillaste is the author and illustrator – she has written the story and created the pictures.

Adam Cullen is the translator.

Who is on the cover?

What else can you see?

Can you tell what the sculptures are made from?

The book was originally written in Estonian. Discuss languages with the class and if any of the children speak another language.

What is translation? Can you think of situations where it is important to have a translator?

Activities

Can you make a sculpture of yourself?

Kertu Sillaste is from Estonia. Can you find Estonia on a map?
Research Estonia.



Inside spread

Discussion

What can you see?

What shapes can you identify?

Activities:

Cut shapes out of paper and make a scene.



Page 4-5

Discussion

What is an artist?

Can you name any artists?

Look at the self-portraits in the book – can you tell what they are made from?

Discuss talents the children have.

Activities

Create a self-portrait using a range of different art materials.

Research various famous artists. Show art from different areas of history and compare the different styles.

Host a talent show.



Page 6-7

Discussion

Discuss creativity with the class.

Where do ideas come from? e.g. other people's art, stories, artforms you would like to explore, nature, news events, imagination.



Page 8-9

Discussion

Discuss each of John's ideas – are they good ideas? Why or why not?

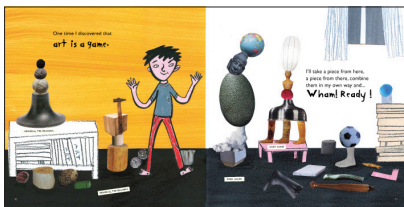
What is art? Do John's ideas change your thoughts about art?

Activities:

Create a mindmap of your own artistic ideas.

John is a contemporary artist – research what this means and some examples of contemporary art.

Visit <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids> and watch their 'Why is Art so Weird?' video.



Page 10-11

Discussion

What is a memorial?

Why do you think art can be a game? Do you enjoy creating art? Is art playful?

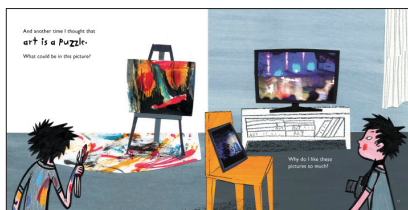
Can you identify any of the objects that the sculptures are made from?

What is a globe? Can you see the globe? Can you find the UK on a globe? How about Estonia, where the author is from?

Can you see the football in the picture? What sports do you like to play?

Activities

Make a 'junk' sculpture: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/sculpture/make-junky-funky-sculpture>



Pages 12

Discussion

What is John doing? John is painting.

What do you think John is painting?

Do you like John's painting? Why or why not?

Activities

Create a 'splashy' painting like John's.

Pages 13

Discussion

What is John doing?

What is John holding?

What does a camera do?

Have you ever taken a picture using a camera?

What is a landscape image? How is this different to a portrait image?

Activities

Invite children to take pictures of the school using disposable cameras. Develop the images and show them to the class.

Explore how light affects photographs – take a picture in the dark, during natural light at night, natural light during the day, artificial light and using a coloured light and show the children. Ask them to spot the differences.

Research how cameras have changed since they were first invented.



Pages 14-15

Discussion

Why might art be finding? Finding inspiration, finding materials etc.

Why might John be recognising? Recognising what you enjoy, recognising what makes a 'good' picture etc.

What is a stork?

What animals live in the jungle?

Why is the angry bull red? Discuss colour connotations with children – yellow is happy, blue is calm, red is anger or love etc.

What shapes are the animals made from?

Can you see any other animals in the picture – fish, bird, elephant etc.

What is your favourite animal?

Activities

Create your favourite animal from cut-out paper shapes.



Pages 16-17

Discussion

What is John drawing?

How is the footballer feeling? How can you tell?

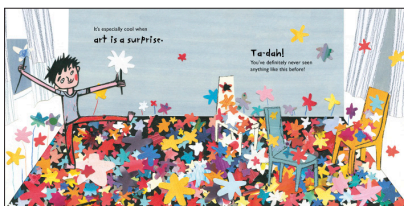
How do you think the people on the boat are feeling? How can you tell?

Activities

Show other paintings or drawings by famous artists and discuss the stories that may be behind them.

Draw your favourite memory.

Write a story for each of the pictures in this spread.



Pages 18-19

Discussion

What shape has John made?

Where else would you see so many flowers?

Activities

Get the class to make a 'paper garden' with different types of flowers and trees.



Pages 20-21

Discussion

Talk about deforestation.

How do cars affect the environment?



Pages 22-23

Discussion

Talk about colours and colour theory.

Activities

Can you re-create some of John's impossible ideas on paper or using toys?



Pages 24-25

Discussion

How is John feeling?

When have you found something hard? What did you do?

Why might tigers be hard to draw?

Activities

Research tigers.

Have a drawing contest with the class – who can draw the best tiger?

Can you draw 100 tigers?



Pages 26-27

Discussion

How do you feel when things go wrong?

How do you cope with feelings of worry?

What makes you happy when you are sad?

Discuss mindfulness exercises you can do to help when you feel worried or anxious.

Activities

Draw how you are feeling today

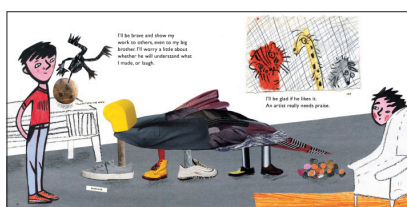


Pages 28-29

Discussion

Why is it important to keep trying at something you find hard?

What is perseverance?



Pages 30-31

Discussion

How is John feeling? Nervous, worried.

Why is it important to receive praise?

Do you have sibling/siblings?

Have you ever shown any of your artwork to your family? How did they react?

How have you been brave recently?

What other professions need bravery – police officer, fire fighter, doctor, performer etc.

Can you see the moon in this image? Why is the moon important? How often do you see a full moon?

What species of dinosaur do you think this is? What other dinosaur species do you know?

What are the sculptures made from? Shoes, clothes, bowling ball etc.

Have you ever visited a zoo?

Why do we have zoos?

Can you name some of the animals in this zoo picture? Can you name any other animals that you see in a zoo?

Activities

Create a gallery of the children's work and invite family members to come and view it.

Ask all the children to make a different zoo animal using various artforms and create a display.

Make dinosaur prints using sponge or potato stamps or finger painting.



Pages 32-33

Discussion

Can you see some of the materials John used throughout the book?

How many different artforms did you spot throughout the story? Which is your favourite? Can you name any others?

Which was your favourite artwork from the story? Why?

Activities

Go to an art gallery and see how many different artforms you can spot.

Make your own print stencil from sponge and create a piece of art using it.



Back Cover

Discussion

What is a blurb? A short description of the story.

What else is on the back cover? The price/ ISBN.

What is art? Can you think of any examples from the story?

What is an artist? Do you want to be an artist like John?

Where do good ideas come from? Think about what might influence an artists work – their life, nature, other artists etc.

Activities

Invite an artist to speak to the class about what their everyday life is like.

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