

Art Theme Day Book Suggestions

Here is a “How To” Art Books:

1 2 3 I Can Paint, by Irene Luxbacher, Kids Can Press, 2007 – This is a good little book that simply explains what painting is. It offers a list of materials with big photographs and gives some easy activities that highlight mixing colours, light and dark, evoking mood etc..

The Jumbo Book of Art, written and illustrated by Irene Luxbacher, Kids Can Press, 2003—This is a great book full of many different art activities!

Here are some picture books about art that we recommend:

Art's Supplies, by Chris Tougas, Orca Book Publishers, 2008—See what happens when Art's art supplies decide to throw a party.

Katie's Sunday Afternoon, by James Mayhew, Orchard Books, 2004 – I adored this picture book about a little girl who visits the art museum on a hot sunny day and literally dives into the pictures. She joins five famous Pointillist paintings and embarks on quite the adventure!

Morris the Artist, by Lore Segal and pictures by Boris Kulikov, Frances Foster Books, 2003—Morris doesn't want to give Benjamin his gift because he likes it so much but holding it throughout the party proves to be too much for him and once it is open the present is a delightful artist treat for all the children.

Squeaking of Art: The Mice go to the Museum, by Monica Wellington, Dutton Children's Books, 2000—Ten mice visit the museum in this interactive book that asks the reader questions as they explore the different galleries. This would be a perfect book to read with children before their first visit to an art museum!

Try to find some of these nonfiction/learning titles that showcase famous works of art in a way that would appeal to kids:

A Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings, by Lucy Micklethwait, Firefly Books, 1999—This is a great book for early grade schoolers and really highlights details in thirteen different paintings.

The Art Book for Children, text by Amanda Renshaw and Gilda Williams Ruggi, Phaidon Press Inc., 2005 – We took out this book and book two from the library and loved them! They highlight different pieces of artwork from different museums but present them to children with questions and ideas to help your kids look at the art differently and to notice things and think about art in different ways.

Looking at Pictures: An Introduction to Art for Young People, by Joy Richardson with illustrations by Charlotte Voake, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 1997—This is a great book really delves into twelve different themes in the study of art in a very approachable way. Some of the themes examined are: telling a story, hidden meanings, tricking the eye, making arrangements...

No One Saw: Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist, by Bob Raczka, Millbrook Press, 2002 – By looking at 16 different pieces of art the author states how each artist was unique in his/her viewing of the subject. I love the message at the end to kids that “Artists express their own point of view and nobody sees the world like you.”

Unlikely Pairs: Fun With Famous Works of Art, by Rob Raczka, Millbrook Press, 2006 – Another book by Bob Raczka I know, but I think his books are the perfect way to get children to look at art in a different way. In this book kids may appreciate the humour of the pairings that match different paintings and by putting them side by side creates a funny story.

The Usborne Introduction to Art, published by Usborne Publishing Ltd., 2003—My eldest really enjoyed pouring over the details in this book which was made in association with the National Gallery in London.