
Activity: A Picture Tells a Story
Age range: Grades 4–12
Arts Skill: Creative Writing
Culture: Any

Skills to Develop: To use abstract art to introduce students to ways of expressing their unique experiences through writing and storytelling.

“Learning to write is learning to observe, analyze, think, be open, and to value your own experience.”

Rebecca Rule

What you need:

- Paper, pencils
- Examples of abstract art

Vocabulary to explore:

- voice: *the writer's presence on the page*

Directions:

1. Start by looking at abstract art.
2. Study the shapes, colors, brushstrokes, movements, and so forth.
3. Focus in on one small section of the artwork, and write about what you see, what it makes you feel, what it makes you think of. What kind of place is it? What could happen there?

Goal/Outcome: Students will make connections between visual art and creative writing.

Curriculum Link: Language Arts Curriculum Standard 2: “Students will demonstrate the interest and ability to write effectively for a variety of purposes.”