Books for Young Children about the Creative Arts

Compiled by Sandi Collins

About Painters and Other Artists


Marianthe’s Story: Painted Words and Marianthe’s Story: Spoken Memories. Aliki. 1998. Greenwillow. Two stories based on the author/illustrator’s childhood experiences. Although Mari starts school knowing no one and unable to speak or understand the language, she expresses herself and her feelings through art. Ages 4–8.


Pictures for Miss Josie. S. Belton. Illus., B. Andrews. The story of Josephine Carroll Smith (Miss Josie) and a young artist who became one of her friends. Ages 4–8.


Music


The Jazz Fly (with CD). M. Gollub. Illus., K. Hanke. 2000. Tortuga. While seeking directions to town, a fly picks up the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog, a hog, a donkey, and a dog and then uses the sounds to jazz up his band’s music. Ages 4–8.


Max Found Two Sticks. B. Pinkney. 1997. Aladdin. Max doesn’t feel like talking, but he responds to questions by drumming on various objects, including a bucket, hat boxes, and garbage cans, echoing the city sounds around him. Ages 4–8.


Sculpture/Architecture


Gugu’s House. C. Stock. 2001. Clarion. Ages 5–8. In Zimbabwe, Kukamba visits her grandmother, Gugu, who paints and creates clay sculptures. When the art pieces are destroyed by long-awaited rains, Gugu shows her granddaughter the beauty that nature has created.


Dance


Drum/Music


Photography


Textiles

Luka’s Quilt. G. Guback. 1994. Greenwillow. Grandma Tutu is hurt when Luka is disappointed with the traditional Hawaiian quilt that Tutu made for her. All ends well though. Ages 4–8.

Poetry


Pottery


Museums


Copyright © 2004 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. See Permissions and Reprints online at www.naeyc.org/resources/journal.