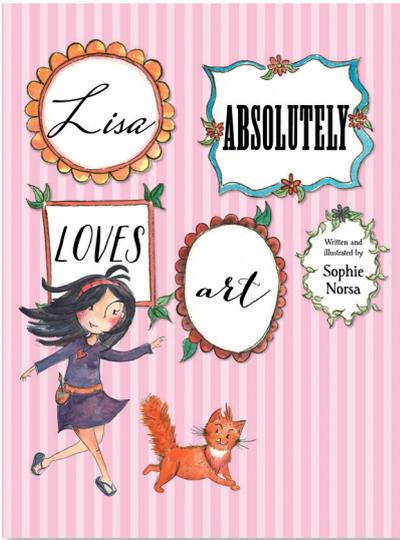


# TEACHERS' NOTES

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## Lisa Absolutely Loves Art

Written and illustrated by Sophie Norsa

### Synopsis

When Lisa's cat, Picasso, gets lost within the paintings at an art gallery, it's up to Lisa to find him. Can she trace Picasso's steps through the history of art?

### Author/Illustrator style or medium

Sophie has used a combination of pencils, pastels, watercolours, liner pens and gouache. Using mixed media has allowed Sophie to replicate the style of each famous artwork featured in *Lisa Absolutely Loves Art*.

### Author/Illustrator Motivation

As an art student, Sophie was motivated by her love of art. She wanted to pay homage to the art world in a picture book. The famous paintings featured in *Lisa Absolutely Loves Art* are some of Sophie's favourites.

### Author/Illustrator Background Information

When she was 17, Sophie's exceptional, artistic talents were quickly discovered by New Frontier Publishing while completing work experience. Since leaving high school, Sophie studies art full-time, works part-time and illustrates picture books in between.

### Educational Applicability

Students can learn who artists are, what they do and what they make, along with how ideas and people are represented in paintings. Students can also communicate their ideas and feelings about pictures and paintings. *Lisa Absolutely Loves Art* can be linked to other Key Learning Areas, such as Hsie and English, through investigating patterns of place and location in particular artworks.



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## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Before and during reading the book:

1. Do you like to paint?
2. How does painting make you feel?
3. How do you decide what to paint? Where do you get your ideas?
4. There are many famous artists in the world. Can you name any of them?
5. Can you name other forms of art besides painting?

### After reading the book:

1. Why do you think Lisa's cat Picasso ran away?
2. Did you notice any other animals besides Picasso? How many can you find?
3. On the last page, who does the hand holding the paintbrush belong to?
4. Out of all the paintings Lisa stumbles into, which one is your favourite? And why?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Have each student create their own painting and hang them around the classroom like an art gallery.
2. Research the different styles of painting. What are they? When were they used? Who used them? Why were they used?
3. Have students experiment with using different media to create an artwork; crayons, coloured pencils, paint, soft lead pencils (2B and 4B), glue, inks/dyes, etc.
4. What are primary colours? What are secondary colours? Have students experiment with mixing colours.
5. Arrange an excursion to an art gallery.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

Research the lives and paintings of the famous artists mentioned in *Lisa Absolutely Loves Art*; Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Henri Rousseau, Claude Monet.

## MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- Sophie Norsa was shortlisted for the 2013 CBCA Crichton Award for her illustrations in *Yellow Dress Day*
- In *Lisa Absolutely Loves Art*, Sophie pays homage to well-known paintings throughout the book by artists such as Monet, Van Gogh, Degas and Seurat
- Sophie also uses the techniques and style such artists are famous for like impressionism and pointillism
- This is the first book Sophie has both written and illustrated



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