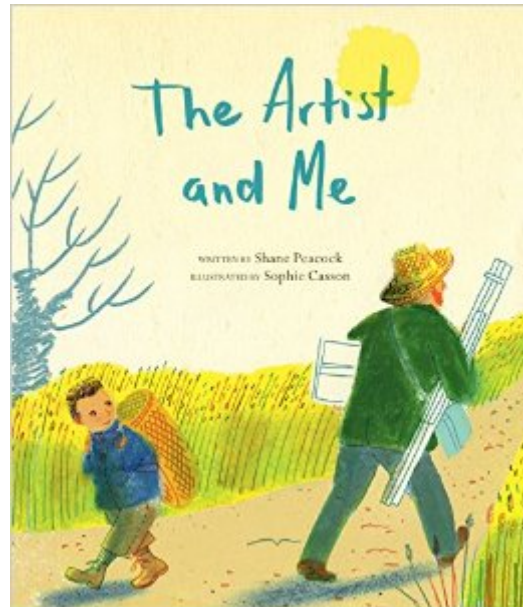


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# The Artist And Me



## Synopsis

Vincent van Gogh is now known as an acclaimed, incomparable Post-Impressionist painter. But when he lived in Arles, France, in the 1880s, he was mocked for being different. Back then, van Gogh was an eccentric man with wild red hair who used clashing hues to paint unusual-looking people and strange starry skies. Children and adults alike called him names and laughed at him. Nobody bought his art. But he kept painting. Inspired by these events, *The Artist and Me* is the fictional confession of one of van Gogh's bullies; a young boy who adopted the popular attitude of adults around him. It's not until the boy faces his victim alone that he realizes there is more than one way to see the world. Artwork in the book uses vibrant color and texture to bring the laneways, cafés, and wheat fields of southern France to life while playing on scenes from van Gogh's own work. The lyrical text carries the emotional weight of the subject and will leave readers with the understanding that everyone's point of view is valuable.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Owlkids Books (April 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1771471387

ISBN-13: 978-1771471381

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.6 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #285,035 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #100 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure](#) #342 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

If you want to introduce fine art to young children, this book is an excellent avenue for that. When I took art history in a Humanities class my senior year in High School I fell in love with art and wondered why it wasn't more a part of the curriculum. When I was headmistress of a private school,

at Assembly each morning, we had a Masterpiece of the Week with the artists name and country he/she was from along with the name of the painting. Van Gogh really appealed to children. One of our kindergarten students was in NYC on the elevator where there was a poster advertising a Matisse exhibit, and the young child said to their parents: "Look, there's a Matissee!" his parents told me. They didn't know we were teaching art during the day. I made up a worksheet on the painting for the class to answer questions about it - finding objects in the painting, what colors used, how did it make them feel etc.? When I took my 10-year-old son and his friends to the art store and there were posters on display, they enjoyed going through them identifying different artists and their works. Similarly, this book is a fun way to introduce Van Gogh's life and work to young children. The illustrations capture the feel of Van Gogh's paintings and emotional appeal. It's the story of a young boy who taunts Van Gogh, but then realizes later how wrong he was. It's a very compelling plot and would prompt great discussion on kindness and accepting people's differences. A teacher or Principal can buy a calendar or inexpensive art book of Van Gogh's paintings and do a bulletin board display of Van Gogh's work and use the pages for display. I loved this book. When I finished it, I wanted to read it again. The illustrator uses some of Van Gogh's works - his bedroom at Arles for example - and puts Van Gogh into the bedroom. How clever!

Told from the point of view of a child in Arles, France, this book looks at how unique people in the world have their own way of viewing things. The boy joins with the adults in the town to mock and bully painter Vincent van Gogh. Van Gogh was seen as a wild man, living in poverty who wasted his days creating art that didn't sell and that went against everything that people knew about art. Yet he just kept on painting. The boy eventually finds himself in a field with the artist, suddenly seeing the world as something amazing and vibrantly colored rather than the same place it has always been. The artist offered the boy his painting but the boy refused, only to see it years later on the wall of a museum. Peacock has created a picture book about bullying but also about so much more. It is about the way that society reacts to a genius who refuses to follow their rules, who walks his own path through the fields, painting as he goes. The child is clearly following what the adults around him are saying. He is also intrigued in many ways by the strange artist and the way he lives. Plus he is drawn in by the paintings that he can glimpse. It's a lovely balance of rejection and attraction that makes the book surprising and effective. The art by Casson uses vibrant colors to capture the French countryside. The golden of the wheat fields, the purple of the sky, all tied together with reds and blues and add depth and even more color. The result is a different style than Van Gogh, but a nod to his use of color and sense of freedom. A book that works on many levels,

this picture book looks at bullying, genius, art and the power of connection. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

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