



MORNINGS WITH Monet

BY BARB ROSENSTOCK

ILLUSTRATED BY MARY GRANDPRÉ

FROM THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR BEHIND
THE CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK *THE NOISY PAINT BOX*



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MORNINGS WITH Monet

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

A new picture book about the iconic artist Claude Monet from the Caldecott Award-winning team who created *The Noisy Paint Box*.

Claude Monet is one of the world's most beloved artists—and he became famous during his own lifetime. He rejected a traditional life, and instead he chose a life of art, but not just any art: a new way of seeing that came to be called Impressionism.

Monet loved to paint what he saw around him, particularly the Seine River. He was initially rejected by the elite in the art world for using bright colors and tangled brushstrokes. But soon art dealers and collectors were lining up each morning to see as Monet saw. Monet, however, waited only for the light, the changing light. Each morning he had a dozen canvases on hand to paint a dozen different moments. His brush moved back and forth, chasing sunlight—putting in the arduous work to create an image that seemed to contain no effort at all.

Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPré explore another influential painter in this moving tribute to creativity, commitment, and new ways of seeing the world around you.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR



Photo courtesy of author

Barb Rosenstock is the author of the Caldecott Honor Book *The Noisy Paint Box*, *Vincent Can't Sleep*, and *Through the Window*, all illustrated by Mary GrandPré, as well as many other books. She lives outside of Chicago with her husband, sons, and two big poodles. Visit her at BarbRosenstock.com.



Photo courtesy of illustrator

Mary GrandPré is best known as the illustrator of the original American Harry Potter books. She also illustrated the Caldecott Honor Book *The Noisy Paint Box*, as well *The Carnival of the Animals* written by Jack Prelutsky and Chin Yu Min, and *The Ginger Cat* by Jennifer Armstrong, among many others. Visit her at MaryGrandPre.com.



ACTIVITIES

WHAT IS IMPRESSIONISM?

As a class, learn more about Impressionism and the Impressionists by watching “What Is Impressionism?” from London’s Tate Museum (youtube.com/watch?v=nesTk_6j-0c). After watching, have students relate the video’s content to *Mornings with Monet* in terms of facts and concepts. How does the content overlap? What does the book offer that the video doesn’t and vice versa? Ask students to compare the experience of learning from print books to that of learning from videos, noting the strengths of each medium and discussing how the two types of media can be used to complement each other.

CELEBRATE COLOR

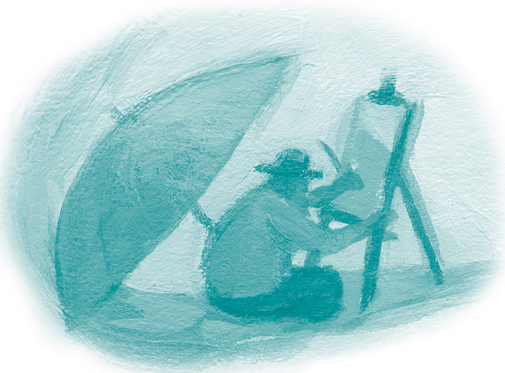
Ask students to compile a list of colors mentioned in *Mornings with Monet*, such as “cobalt violet” and “ultramarine blue,” as well as descriptions like “shadows the color of steeped tea.” Have students collect and add other color names from the world around them, like those on crayons, craft paints, nail polish and cosmetics, paint samples, and so on. Groups of students should gather items that have one predominant color and name the variations within the color such as “navy blue” and “sky blue.” Hold a class discussion on color names, basic color theory, and how artists mix colors. Then have students create simple or complex color wheels to display in the classroom (teachkidsart.net/create-your-own-color-wheel-2).

DRAWING ON MONET

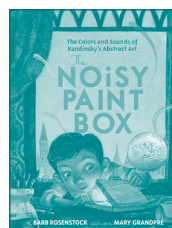
Introduce students to the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s website and its selection of Monet paintings (metmuseum.org/art/collection/search#!?q=Claude%20Monet). Ask them to spend some time looking at them. Working in pairs, students should carefully study several pages of their choice in *Mornings with Monet*. Ask them to identify aspects of the illustrations that echo Monet’s paintings in terms of style, color, line, subject matter, and so on. The students should also discuss how the pictures relate to the text. Do the pictures reflect specific words or descriptions? What information or emotions do the pictures add that aren’t in the text?

MEET THE REBELS

Mornings with Monet lists other Impressionists, including Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, Sisley, and Morisot. The Tate Museum video also lists Mary Cassatt. Each student should choose one of these painters and learn more about them through digital and print resources. Have the students create a short slide presentation using images of paintings (from creative commons websites) and highlight five to ten facts about the painter they found especially interesting.



Also by
Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPré





A POEM ABOUT COLORS

Write a poem using the name of a different color as the first word of every line. The sentence can be literal, such as “Red is the cardinal flying past my window.” Or it can be about feelings or emotions: “Yellow is pure joy.”

Title _____

by _____

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.

_____ is _____.



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EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet for your students.



Name _____

TWO ARTISTS: ALIKE AND DIFFERENT

The *Noisy Paint Box* is a picture-book biography about the artist Vasya Kandinsky from the same author-illustrator team who brought you *Mornings with Monet*. After listening to your teacher read the book aloud and viewing the pictures, compare the books and artists on this chart.

| | <i>Mornings with Monet</i> | <i>The Noisy Paintbox</i> |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist's name • Birth and death dates • Countries they lived in | | |
| Similarities in their lives | | |
| Differences in their lives | | |
| Similarities in their art | | |
| Differences in their art | | |
| How their art makes your feel | | |

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