

## ***Teaching Tips for Your Art Masterpiece Lessons***

### **First Visit**

- ◆ Be sure to introduce yourself and the Art Masterpiece program to the students. Let them know they will be learning about art appreciation and elements of art. Be clear that it is not a “how to draw” or “arts and crafts” class.
- ◆ Discuss the difference between a reproduction and an original. Many times students think you are holding the actual masterpiece in your hands.

### **Throughout the Year**

- ◆ Be on time as the teachers are on a set schedule and going over your allotted time may affect the rest of their day.
- ◆ Be prepared but stay flexible in your lesson.
- ◆ Write the artist's name and key words on the boards as you teach your class.
- ◆ Place the date of the artwork in a historical era appropriate for the grade level. (i.e. This was painted around the time of the Civil War.....)
- ◆ Talk to the children on a level appropriate for their age.
- ◆ When you discuss the artist bio, touch upon interesting facts. A complete biography is too much information. The students are interested in when the artist lived and died, any unusual facts about their life or information on the artist's childhood.
- ◆ Talk about the art medium used (i.e. Oils, watercolors, charcoal, etc.)
- ◆ Be responsible in handling the print or transparency. Make sure you return it and any supplies at the end of your lesson.
- ◆ If you cannot teach a lesson, be sure to let your teacher or school coordinator know.

### **Philosophy**

- ◆ Be cheerful and enthusiastic, if you're having fun, they will too!
- ◆ Asking questions about the artwork will help students share their feelings, use their imagination and stimulate conversation.
- ◆ Do more listening than talking. Use open-ended questions with “How” and “Why” to promote their answers.
- ◆ To keep the children involved, write their answers on the board to reinforce the lesson and give the kids a sense of accomplishment and inclusion.
- ◆ When a child gives an answer, avoid saying, “No, that's not right.” Say something like, “I hadn't thought about it that way” and then sway the dialogue to the correct answer.
- ◆ Be objective. Don't project your like or dislike of an artistic style or piece.
- ◆ Accept the children's right to like or dislike a picture. Don't take anything personally.
- ◆ Personalize the lesson by adding your own touch. Add information that will help stimulate interest in the artwork. Props like books, prints, music, costumes and art media are just a few examples.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to tell the students “I don't know.” if you're not sure of a fact tell them that you'll find out and be sure to give them the answer.
- ◆ Finish lesson and begin activity while interest is still high.
- ◆ Give activity instructions prior to handing out supplies.
- ◆ During the activity, walk around the classroom to give praise and clarify directions.
- ◆ Be sure to clean up at the end of your activity.
- ◆ Reinforce the idea that all students can be artists.