

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Rembrandt Conspiracy

Written by Deron R. Hicks

206 pages / Grades 3-6

Art's father works at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC and comes across information that leads him to believe a huge heist is about to take place at the museum. After convincing his best friend Camille that it is real, the two team up to stop a theft that could involve billions of dollars of art. A fast paced mystery filled with twists, turns and art history which uses QR codes to introduce students to the art mentioned in the story.

C

Context

Mysteries as a genre. A great way to teach being observant readers and gathering clues, along with plot twists and elaboration.

QR codes as an engagement tool and ways to use them.

The infamous **Gardner Museum Theft** in 1990. Much is tied in to this real life, still unsolved event which will grab readers to know this could truly (and did!) happen.

A

Arts

Art History. The book is filled with mentions of the masters of art. (Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Cassatt, and so many more. The author cleverly uses QR codes throughout the book to allow students to instantly view the art spoken of throughout the book.

Art Museums. An in-depth look at art preservation, galleries, displays and artists. In particular, the National Portrait Gallery is explored in-depth, including maps of the layout to all students to visualize what is happening.

T

Themes

Friendship

Art preservation

Confidence

Honesty

C

Create

Engage students in a virtual or real session around art preservation.

Students choose one piece of art from the [National Portrait Gallery](#) and write a mystery around it.

Take an online tour of the [National Portrait Gallery](#), particularly the areas mentioned in the book.

Students create their own "Millennium Exhibition" as in the book, working together to choose which art pieces should be represented and why.

H

Heart Words

"He understood the power of art."

"And so he lingered in the shadows for another day. "

