

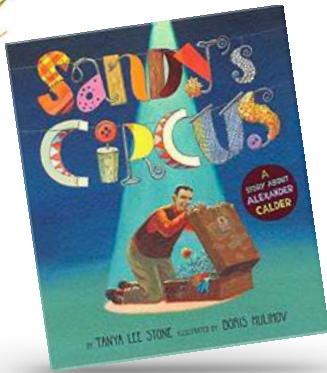
CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder

Written by Tanya Lee Stone, Illustrated by Boris Kulikov
40 pages / Grades K-3

Sandy was always tinkering and creating as a boy, seeing the magic of life in new ways. When he began creating wire sculptures, he stumbled upon a new kind of art, creating an entire traveling circus. Sparking imagination, this delightful picture book will bring the artist Alexander Calder to the forefront as he creates a magical, moveable circus out of ordinary materials.



C Context

Biography as a writing style, particularly in picture book format. What choices does an author need to make to create a full story without too many details.

The **history of the circus** - how was it more prominent in past times?

A Arts

Alexander Calder, the artist

Sculpture as an art form, no matter the materials being used. How is 3-D art different?

Combining art forms - the illustrator uses two unique styles of art within the illustrations. Why?

Mobiles - the art of motion and space

T Themes

Thinking outside of the box

Imagination

Seeing and believing

The power of art to bring people together

C Create

Create a collaborative "magical, moveable" classroom. Challenge students to create wire sculptures of themselves, and play with the classroom as Calder did his circus.

Create a mobile that has personal meaning through abstract art. Write artist statements about the reasoning behind the creation.

Give students a supply of "odds and ends". What can they tinker with and create?

H Heart Words

"In Paris it's a compliment to be called crazy."

"He has discovered, in playing, a new world. His art "has the force of the ocean."

