

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

### Mornings With Monet

Written by Barb Rosenstock, Illustrated by Mary GrandPré  
40 pages / Grades K-5

The quietness and fleeting morning light is beautifully captured in this powerful story. In just one morning, we are taught so much about impressionist painter Monet - from his skill and talent, his style, to his extreme passion and love for his work. This is by no means a simple picture book. There are numerous life lessons the reader, of any age, can take away. Plus, they will immediately want to see pictures of the real work.



### C Context

**Vocabulary and context clues** - this book does not shy away from rich words, like Monet's colors, but uses them sparingly (so that students are not overwhelmed) and masterfully in context.

**Plays on words** - multiple meaning words used in a way that both meanings can apply, such as "impression"

### A Arts

**Impressionism** as a style of painting, with the life of Monet being front and center.

**Process of painting** - from the actual painting, to storing and drying.

**Mornings on the Seine** - a collection of Monet's paintings.

### T Themes

Patience

Determination

Following your passion - despite what others say

### C Create

Start your morning meeting or beginning of class the same way Monet did. Give students the same viewpoint everyday for just 10 minutes. Have them capture it (paint, photography, drawing, anything). How does the same space change day to day?

Ask students to consider a time where they had great patience to accomplish something great, that they felt proud of. Write about the experience - or represent it artistically.

### H Heart Words

"...past a palette he's rooted in earth: poppies, nasturtiums, hollyhocks."

"...for some things take time to grow."

"Monet only waits for the light."

"Shaping without lines, seeing in patches of color."

"Artists try."

"Art is not magic. It is work, and work, and work, and then.... it is magic."

