

Starry Night

Visual Arts



Vincent van Gogh. *The Starry Night*. 1889.
Oil on canvas. 29 x 36 ¼" (73.7 92.1 cm)

Set up

- Set aside 15 minutes
- Find a place where you can both sit comfortably and look at an artwork together
- Print out the questions and the image of *The Starry Night*

Consciously Breathe

- Look your partner in the eyes and say, "Let's breathe together"
- Take three deep inhales and exhales together

Sing and Move

- Sing the song "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" together
- Begin to make up movements to go with the song
- Invite your partner to mirror your gestures
- Repeat the song without the lyrics (use la-la-la) and enlarge the gestures

Call and Response

- Say the words below and have your partner repeat after each line
- Start by saying, "Repeat after me."
"I carry your heart
I carry it in my heart
This is the wonder that keeps the stars apart
I carry your heart"

Create Together

1. Look at the artwork closely. Look at it from top to bottom, left to right, making sure you explore every corner.
2. Name what you see and describe it. Is there a particular part of the work you are immediately drawn to? What objects do you recognize? How would you describe the colors?
3. You might talk about how the artist worked. Van Gogh typically painted with short, thick brushstrokes, using a lot of paint with each one. Do you see evidence of these brushstrokes? What kind of effect do they create?
4. You can give your interpretation. What time of day is it or what season? What might the people in the village be doing? What is the mood of the work and what makes you say that?
5. If possible, share historical information about the artist and the work. What, if anything, do you know about Vincent van Gogh? Here's some information:
 - a. This work depicts a village as seen from above. It incorporates aspects typical of the French village of Saint-Remy, where it was painted, as well as other visual elements of van Gogh's native Holland, for instance in the architecture of the church seen in the center of the work.
6. Why do you think van Gogh chose to mix these parts of his old and new homes?
7. See if you notice any connections between the artwork and your own life. Does this look like any place you have visited, and if so, where and why?

Celebrate Each Other

- Positively acknowledge a moment of accomplishment
- Examples: "Dancing and singing with you made me smile;" "The comments you made about the painting was funny/interesting/surprising, etc.;" "I loved saying the poem together."
- Savor the moment