

ARLO'S ARTrageous ADVENTURE!

Teaching Guide



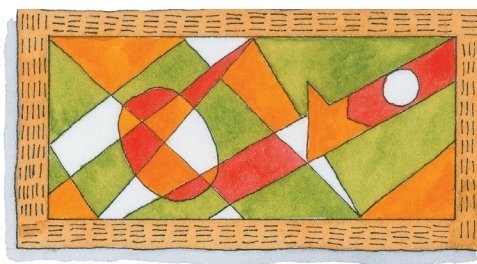
About the Author/ Illustrator

A former elementary school teacher, David LaRochelle has been writing for children since 1988 and has won numerous awards, including the Sid Fleischman Humor Award, the SCBWI Golden Kite Honor Award, and the Minnesota Book Award. His previous book for Sterling, *1+1=5 and Other Unlikely Additions*, illustrated by Brenda Sexton, won the Grand Canyon Reader award. *Arlo's ARTrageous Adventure* is the first book David has both written and illustrated. He lives in White Bear Lake, MN. Find out more about David at davidlarochelle.com.



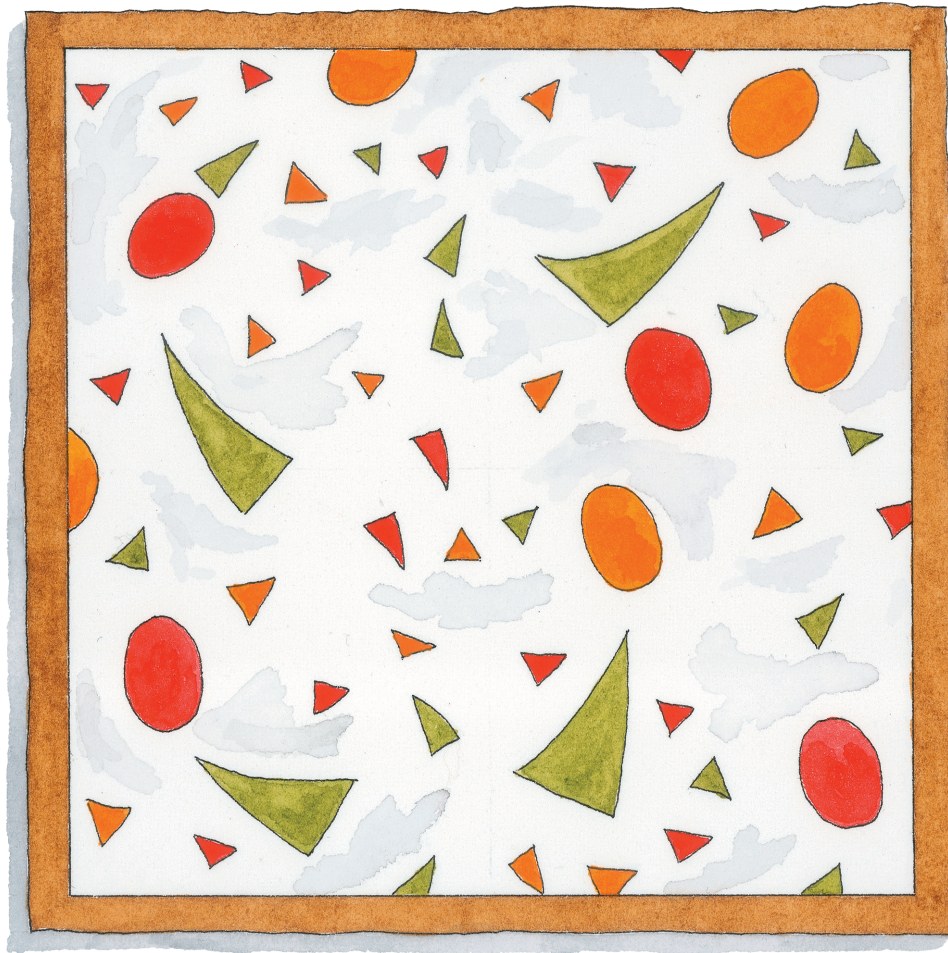
Reading the book

1. Ask students if they have ever had to go on an outing they thought would be boring. Where did they go? Did they end up having a good time?
2. Show the cover of the book and explain that Arlo is about to visit the art museum, even though he's not sure what to expect. Ask students to predict whether or not he will enjoy himself.
3. If you have access to one, you might wish to use a document camera as you read the story, especially if you are sharing the book with a larger group. Allow students enough time to look at the details on each page and beneath the flaps. If you can, encourage them to come up and play with the flaps, too.
4. After reading the book aloud, try these discussion questions:
 - Even though Arlo doesn't say much, what are some things we know about him just by looking at the illustrations?
 - Do you think Arlo's attitude about art changes during the story? How can you tell?
 - Who do you think had a better time during their visit to the museum, Arlo or his grandmother? Why do you feel that way?
 - At the museum, Arlo sees many different kinds of artwork, including drawings, portraits, sculptures, a mobile, jewelry, and decorative fabric. Can you find examples of each of these types of artwork in Arlo's bedroom? As a group, you might wish to make a list of all the places outside of a museum where art, in any of its different forms, can be seen.
 - What is your favorite kind of art to make?
 - "A great work of art can fill us with intense emotions!" Do you think that's true? Take a look at paintings by various artists, including Degas, Monet, Picasso, Pollock, Rothko, and others. (You can find many examples online.) How do these pictures make you feel? Relaxed? Excited? Confused? Happy? There are no right or wrong answers!
 - There are all kinds of museums: art museums, science museums, history museums, even a barbed wire and a mustard museum! If you had your own museum, what would you put in it?



Creating your own art

1. Using the templates found in the event kit, kids can make their own masterpieces or create their own lift-the-flap pictures. Older kids may wish to experiment with flaps that open in different ways (up and down, left and right, multiple flaps). Display these creations on a wall or bulletin board for others to enjoy.
2. For more clever ways to create lift-the-flap pictures and pop-up books, check out Joan Irvine's book *Easy-to-Make Pop-Ups*.
3. Fill individual sandwich bags with a variety of materials (marshmallows, toothpicks, pipe cleaners, mailing labels, buttons, paper clips, etc.). Give one bag to each child and let them create their own mini sculptures. Use index cards to label each creation with the title and artist's name.
4. Invite kids to bring in artwork they've created at home to display in a classroom or library art museum.



Musical inspiration

Modest Mussorgsky's musical composition *Pictures at an Exhibition* was inspired by the paintings of his friend Viktor Hartmann. You can hear the composition online at Wikipedia or YouTube. Play different movements (such as *Cattle/Bydlo*, *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*, and *Baba-Yaga*) and ask your students to draw pictures or designs that match the sounds they hear. Encourage them to think about what colors, shapes, and lines the music evokes. Try drawing to other types of music, such as pop, jazz, hip-hop, and reggae, too!



A virtual field trip

1. The best way to experience art is to see it in person, but if that's not possible, many museums allow you to browse their collections online, including:
 - The Art Institute of Chicago (artic.edu)
 - The Louvre in Paris (louvre.fr/en)
 - The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (which the author visited in person many times while working on this book!) (artsmia.org)
 - The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City (metmuseum.org)
 - At the Met's website, look for "Met Kids," where you can listen to a story about one of Paul Cézanne's paintings or play a sing-along game about works of art found at the Met.
2. The Google Art Project (googleartproject.com) also features many collections from several art museums.
3. Have your students research other national and international art museums online and then locate them on a classroom map.



A gallery of books

For more art- and museum-related books, check out these titles:

Babar's Museum of Art by Laurent De Brunhoff

Meet Me at the Museum by David Goldin

Mousterpiece by Jane Breskin Zalben

The Museum by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Museum Trip by Barbara Lehman

You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman, illustrated by Robin Glasser

Bob Raczka has many terrific art-themed books in his "Art Adventures" series, including:

Art Is...

More Than Meets the Eye

Unlikely Pairs

The Vermeer Interviews

And for older kids, don't miss out on sharing the ultimate trip to an art museum:

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

