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**Title:** The Sign Painter

**By:** Allen Say

**Book Jacket:** “In his Caldecott acceptance speech for *Grandfather’s Journey* Allen Say told of his difficulty in separating his dreams from reality. For him this separation was not as important as finding a meaning behind the contradictions and choices we all must make in life and in their consequences.

Early one morning a boy comes into town, hungry, and looking for work. He meets a sign painter who takes him on as a helper. The boy yearns to be a painter. The man offers him security.

The two are commissioned to paint a series of billboards in the desert. Each billboard has one word, Arrowstar. They do not know its meaning. As they are about to paint the last sign, the boy looks up and sees in the distance a magnificent structure. Is it real? They go to find out.

Through a simple text and extraordinary paintings, the reader learns of the temptation of safe choices and the uncertainties of following a personal dream. Here, Allen Say tells a haunting and provocative story of dreams and choices for readers of all ages.”

**First Line:** “That morning, only one passenger got off the early bus.”

**Last Line:** “And as the last bus came around the corner he said softly to the empty street, “Just passing by…”

**Vocabulary:** hesitated, beckoned, stammered, billboard, outlined, flushed, dozen, landscapes, desert, canvas, mural, wage, ignition, sputtered, dawn, blurry, skeleton, panels, grumbled, horizon, swerving, mesa, immense, cluster, gaping, archway, ramp



**Title:** The Museum Book A guide to *Strange* and *Wonderful* Collections

**By:** Jan Mark

**Illustrated by:** Richard Holland

**Book Jacket:** “What is a museum? And why do we collect things: shells, words, clocks, teeth, trains, dinosaur bones, mummies…and two-headed sheep?

These questions and many more are explored in The Museum Book. Find out where the word museum comes from, how whole cities can be considered museums, and which fascinating things (unicorn horns? mermaids?) were displayed in early museums.

Jan Mark’s many humorous and conversational insights lead the reader deftly through the history of museums, and Richard Holland’s eye-catching illustrations complete this quirky and original book. With vivid examples drawn from all around the world, The Museum Book will make you consider museums – and the artifacts within them –in a whole new light.”

**Glossary:**

**Antiquities p. 28**

Most people mean the time before the Middle Ages when they talk about antiquity. Antiquities are very old artifacts.

**Archaeology pp. 35, 39, 47**

The study of the past and, especially, objects that humans have made in the past. These are called artifacts. Paleontology is the study of fossils; these are not artifacts – unless they are fakes.

**Astrolabe p. 12**

An instrument for measuring the altitude of the stars (their height above the sea level, rather than their distance from earth).

**CE p. 18**

The Common Era. History is usually dated BC (Before Christ), and AD (Anno Domini, the Latin for *In the Year of Our Lord*), because the people who invented the system were Christians. The Common Era is the dating system that everyone uses whatever their religion, BCE means Before the Common Era.

**Ceramics p. 37**

Pottery: that is, anything made of clay and hardened by baking it at very high temperatures.

**Etruscan p. 43**

The Etruscans were people from Etruria, an empire in central Italy founded almost 3,000 years ago. The first Roman kings may have been Etruscan, but eventually Etruria was absorbed into the Roman Empire.

**Exhibition p. 48**

A public display of objects or paintings that have been specially brought together – but anything being exhibited is on display, wherever it is.

**Manuscript pp. 25, 27**

Writing done by hand rather than printed. *Manus* is the Latin word for hand, *scriptus* for written. A manuscript can be one page or a whole book. Before printing was invented, all books were in manuscript form.

**Mummy pp. 12, 36, 42**

A dead body that has been preserved by drying. Many societies all over the world have made mummies – the most methodical were the ancient Egyptians –but mummification can also occur naturally in the right conditions.

**Panopticon p. 29**

A prison with cells built around a watchtower in the center so that prisoners would always be in sight of the warders. The word means all-seeing.

**Prehistory p. 35**

The time before written history. Only archaeology can reveal what was happening then. The geological past, when the earth’s crust was still forming, is too long ago to be called prehistoric.

**Reconstruction p. 44**

Rebuilding, putting something back together, sometimes without knowing quite what it looked like in the first place. The dodo was reconstructed from a skeleton using a painting for guidance.

**Shrine p. 18**

A place where holy relics are kept so that people can visit and be near them.

**Species p. 44**

 A group of plants or animals that are very similar to each other. Lions and jaguars are cats, but they are from different speices. Modern humans are all one species. *Homo sapiens. Homo erectus and Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* (Neanderthal man) were early human species that die out.

**Tumulus p. 42**

A mound of earth raised over a burial site in prehistoric times. A kurgan is similar to a tumulus but very much larger. Kurgans are found across Russia. During the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II, the Mamayev Kurgan was known as Hill 102 because it is 102 meters high.

**Two-Headed Sheep pp. 10, 12, 26, 37**

Animals with two heads (and sometimes two tails and eight legs) are conjoined twins. They seldom live very long. There are more two-headed sheep than, say, two-headed elephants, because ewes often give birth to twins.

**Vault p. 38**

An underground strong room. In old buildings such as churches, the rooms below ground level would have vaulted ceilings – arches that meet at a central point – to bear the huge weight of stone above them.

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**Title:** My Name is Georgia

**A Portrait By:** Jeanette Winter

**An NCTE Notable Children’s Trade Book in the Language Arts**

**A New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing**

**A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year**

**An ALA Notable Children’s Book**

**A *Booklist* Editors’ Choice**

**Back Cover:** “I painted my sky BIG, so people would see the sky the way I did.

From the time she was a young girl, Georgia O’Keeffe saw the world in her own way. At night she climbed a ladder to the starlit sky to await the sun. She walked the hills at daybreak and in moonlight. She gathered bones and rocks, and brought them home to paint. And she always knew what was in her heart – to be an artist.”

“Prose as vivid as an O’Keeffe painting…A superb and inspiring introduction for children to an exceptional American artist.” – *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Wonderful…A lively, personal overview of a fascinating life.” – *School Library Journal* (starred review)

“As clear, spare, and rhythmic as the painter’s compositions…A quiet, yet intense look at Georgia O’Keeffe’s life and work.” – *Booklist* (starred review)

**First Line:** “When I was twelve years old, I knew what I wanted – to be an artist.”

**Last Line:** “In museums all across the land, people see her flowers, deserts, hills, cities, and skies the way she did.”

**Vocabulary:** satisfied, sashes, braids, cupboard, Chicago, museum, New York, Texas, Wild West, plains, canyons, camellia, jack-in-the-pulpit, poppies, petunias, sunflowers, jimsonweeds, irises, apple blossoms, New Mexico, desert, bones, skulls, ram, Pedernal, Model A

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**Title:** Emma’s Rug

**By:** Allen Say

“A stunning springboard for discussion about artistic inspiration and the creative process.” – *The Bulletin*

“Splendid…powerful and haunting, Mr. Say’s story is complemented to perfection by his stunning illustrations. ..Simple, realistic watercolors, luminous with creamy shafts of light, are spare but remarkably expressive.” – *New York Times Book Review*

“This fable is…about artistic inspiration and its sources…Could it be that artistic inspiration lies everywhere, even in the most inconspicuous places, for those who pay attention?” – *Five Owls*

“It is [Say’s] superb visual images, which have the semblance of faultlessly composed photographs, that make the most indelible mark here…An impressive creation, to be appreciated on many levels.” – *Publisher’s Weekly,* starred review

“Delicate, sophisticated…Say’s watercolors, their hues muted with deft use of light and shadow, span the breadth of Emma’s emotions as they tell a story of beauty, pain, and rebirth.” – *Chicago Sun-Times*

“Straightforward text and arresting, translucent watercolors dramatically portray how the young artist sees her world.” – *Horn Book*

**First Line:** “When Emma was born, someone gave her a rug.”

**Last Line:** “And then it was quiet.”

**Vocabulary:** shaggy, crib, fuzzy, impressed, wart hog, pangolin, tapir, easel, maestro’s baton, art competition, talent, plaque, trophy, mayor, prank, limousine, reception, Museum of Art, celebrity, shriveled, ragged, fluff, murmured, bare, rustled

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**Title:** Ah, Music!

**Written and Illustrated by:** Aliki

**Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year**

**ALA *Booklist* Youth Arts Top 10**

**New York Public Library’s “One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing”**

**Back Cover:** “Music is rhythm. Music is melody. Music is feeling…and oh, so much more. Ah, Music! Is about composers and instruments. It’s about artists and performers. It’s about history – from the earliest music through classical, modern, jazz, and popular times. It’s about diversity and pleasure. Beloved author and illustrator Aliki shares her keen insight and understanding of music and all its themes and variations.”

“No one else so captures the power of music as Aliki.” – **ALA *Booklist***

“Like a carefully composed song.” – ***School Library Journal***

“There is something here for everyone.” – ***Kirkus Reviews***

**Contents**

What is Music?

Music is Sound

Rhythm

Melody

Pitch and Tone

Volume

Feeling

A Creative Art

The Written Music

The Creation Comes to Life

Instruments

Conductor

Voice

Harmony

Dance

History of Music

Prehistoric

Ancient

Early

Classical

Diversity of Music

Jazz

Popular

Therapy

Practice Makes Perfect

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**Title:** The Pot That Juan Built

**By:** Nancy Andrews-Goebel

**Pictures by:** David Diaz

“This unusual book…is a must purchase.” – **School Library Journal, starred review**

“[A]n inventive and engrossing biography.” – **Publishers Weekly, starred review**

**First Line:** “This is the pot that Juan built.”

**Last Line:** “The beautiful pot that Juan built.”

**Vocabulary:** sizzling, flickered, flared, fired, manure, admire, crackling, burro, glittered, glowed, glistened, glimmered, gleamed, beamed, sparkled, shimmered, tortilla, squishy, range

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**Title:** Vincent van Gogh Sunflowers and Swirly Stars

**By:** Brad Bucks and Joan Holub

**Vocabulary:** The Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Holland, gallery, promotion, London, England, Dutch, Rembrant, Millet, The Potato Eaters, Paris, France, Claude Monet, struggling, photographs, brushstrokes, Impressionists, Paul Signac, George Seurat, pointillism, dashes, swirls, Japanese paintings, Portrait of Pere Tanguy, Arles, Fourteen Sunflowers in a Vase, canvas, The Bedroom, The Starry Night, The Red Vineyards at Arles

**Portrait:** a painting or picture of a person.

**Self-portrait:** a portrait a person makes of himself or herself.

**Still-life:** a painting or picture of things that are not alive (even if they used to be).

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**Title:** Fantastic! Wow! And Unreal! A Book About Interjections and Conjunctions

**By:** Ruth Heller

**Back Cover:** “Learning about interjections and conjunctions is fun with this dazzlingly illustrated book from Ruth Heller’s World of Language series. The rhyming, lyrical text is brought to life by eye-popping artwork – colorful dragons, mysterious sea creatures and rainbow-striped zebras leap from the pages, Simple enough for children just learning about the parts of speech, yet clever enough to delight those with more experience, this inventive book will have readers saying, “Yippee! Whoopee! And Hallelujah!”

“Youngsters will delight in the rhyming text, which artistically weaves information through vibrant illustrations.” – *School Library Journal*

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**Title:** No One Saw Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist

**By:** Bob Raczka

“Handsome reproductions of sixteen famous paintings, set against complementary backgrounds, reflect their creators’ unique viewpoints, while a gentle rhyming text comments on the masterpieces. The selections serve the impressionist through modern works well and conclude that ‘nobody sees the world like you.’” – *The Horn Book Guide*

“This picture book has some beautiful full-color reproductions of paintings…Reference features include a list of paintings, and brief biographical notes for all the contributing artists. An art teacher would find this a useful book for introducing artists and their work to a primary audience. Recommended.” – *Library Talk*

**Book Jacket:** “With a simple, rhyming text and beautifully reproduced paintings, *No One Saw* explores modern art. Each painting highlights the way in which the artist looked at the world in his or her own way.

 One look at the oversized details of her calla lilies convinces us that no one say flowers like Georgia O’Keeffe. A city becomes art when looked at by Kandinsky. And Miro shows us the flight of a bird like we’ve never seen it before.

 The message is a clear one: no two people see the world in exactly the same way. There is beauty waiting to be seen and shared by you, so be creative and, mor important, be yourself!”

**List of Paintings**

*Two Calla Lilies on Pink* (1928), Georgia O’Keeffe

*Time Transfixed* (1938), Rene Magritte

*The Child’s Bath* (c. 1893), Mary Cassatt

*A Sunday Afternoon on La Grand Jette* (1884-86), Georges Seurat

*The Starry Night* (June 1889), Vincent van Gogh

*Femmes et Oiseau dans la Nuit* (1944), Joan Miro

*Broadway Boogie-Woogie* (1942), Piet Mondrian

*The Basket of Apples* (c. 1895), Paul Cezanne

*Green Violinist* (1923-24), Mark Chagall

*One Hundred Cans* (1962), Andy Warhol

*Haystacks at Chaillay* (1865), Claude Monet

*Fish Magic* (1925), Paul Klee

*The Star* (c. 1879-81), Edgar Degas

*Acrobats at the Cirque Fernando* (1879), Pierre Renoir

*Fall Plowing* (1931), Grant Wood

*Zuboff Square* (1916), Wassily Kandinsky

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**Title:** Ella Fitzgerald The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa

**By:** Andrea Davis Pinkney

**Illustrated by:** Brian Pinkney

**A NICK JR. BEST BOOK OF 2002**

**Back Cover:** “Ella Fitzgerald began life as a singer on the stage of the famous Apollo Theatre when she was just seventeen years old, an unknown orphan in Harlem. Her rich voice and vocal innovations brought her fame, fortune, and a remarkable career that spanned over half a century and won her generations of fans around the world.

 Acclaimed author Andrea Davis Pinkney tells Ella’s inspiring story in the voice of Scat Cat Monroe, a feline whose imagined narrative sings with the infectious rhythms of scat. Three-time Caldecott Honor recipient Brian Pinkney’s dramatic perspectives and fantastical images offer a jazzy improvisation all their own.”

“A ‘skippity-hop-doo-dee-bop’ picture book.” – ***Publishers Weekly* (starred review)**

“Cue up the music and read this one out LOUD.” – ***Booklist* (starred review)**

“The prose is jazzy and rhythmic in the voice of a hipster, and it’s expertly illustrated with images inspired by the works of Harlem Renaissance artists…Cool.” – ***Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)**

“The Pinkneys have delivered a quick, lively trip back in time.” – ***The New York******Times Book Review***

Track 1 Hoffin’ in Harlem

Track 2 Jammin’ in Yale

Track 3 Stompin’ at the Savoy

Track 4 Carnegie Hall Scat

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**Title:** Thomas Edison A Brilliant Inventer (Time for Kids Biographies)

**By:** The Editors of TIME For Kids with Lisa DeMauro

**Back Cover:** “Take a close-up look at Thomas Edison, the brilliant scientist who perfected the lightbulb and founded the first movie studio. Interviews with experts and lively writing deliver the accurate reporting you expect from TIME For Kids. Historical and contemporary photographs and illustrations capture the life of this inventor who revolutionized our world.”

**Contents:**

Chapter 1 Let There Be Light

Chapter 2 Little Al’s Boyhood

Chapter 3 The Amazing Telegraph

Chapter 4 The Young Inventor

Chapter 5 Sound Writing

Chapter 6 Another Bright Idea

Chapter 7 The Great Man

Chapter 8 The Light Dims

Interview Talking About Thomas Edison

Time Line Thomas Edison’s Key Dates

****

**Title:** Alexander Graham Bell Inventor of the Telephone (Time For Kids Biographies)

**By:** The Editors of Time For Kids with John Micklos, Jr.

**Back Cover:** “Take a Close-up look at Alexander Graham Bell, an inventor and teacher of the deaf. Interviews with experts and lively writing deliver the accurate reporting you expect from TIME For Kids. Historical and contemporary photographs capture the life of this compassionate man and show how his innovative inventions still help us today.”

**Contents:**

Chapter 1 The Telephone Is Born

Chapter 2 A Natural Inventor

Chapter 3 Life in the New World

Chapter 4 The Race for the Telephone

Chapter 5 Building a Business

Chapter 6 Exploring More Ideas

Chapter 7 Giving Back

Chapter 8 A Wonderful Life

Interview Talking About Alexander

Time Line Alexander Graham Bell’s Key Dates

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**Title:** Henry Ford Putting the World On Wheels (Time For Kids Biographies)

**By:** The Editors of TIME For Kids with Dina El Nabli

**Back Cover:** “Take a close-up look at Henry Ford, the man who designed and buildt an affordable car for Americans. Interviews with experts and lively writing deliver the accurate reporting you expect from TIME For Kids. Historical and contemporary photographs capture the life and times of this mechanical and marketing genius and show how his invention changed the way Americans travel.”

**Contents:**

Chapter 1 The New Family Car

Chapter 2 Life on the Farm

Chapter 3 Henry the Engineer

Chapter 4 The Beginning

Chapter 5 A Car for Everyone

Chapter 6 A New Middle Class

Chapter 7 After the Model T

Chapter 8 Henry’s Final Years

Interview Talking About Henry

Time Line Henry Ford’s Key Dates

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**Title:** Frida Kahlo The Artist Who Painted Herself

**By:** Margaret Frith

**Illustrated by:** Tomie DePaola

**First Line:** “My name is Frieda.”

**Last Lines:** “*Viva la Vida!* That means Long Live Life!”

**Vocabulary:** self-portrait, Tehuana, Diego Rivera, Mexico, jade, Germany, *Casa Azul*, courtyard, Paris, France, London, England, *pato a palo,* peg leg, mural, canopy, velvet, Coyoacan, Mexico, San Francisco, New York, Detroit, *My Dress Hangs Here*, Mae West, skyscrapers, Pablo Picasso, adios, *azul anil,* marguerites, mimosas, jasmines, parakeets, papier-mache, Day of the Dead, corset, palette, sketches, fawn

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**Title:** DaVinci

**Written and Illustrated by:** Mike Venezia

**First Line:** “Leonardo da Vinci was born in the small Italian town of Vinci in 1452.”

**Last Line:** “Maybe some day you’ll be lucky enough to go to one of these museums and see for yourself how beautiful Leonardo’s work is.”

**Vocabulary:** Leonardo da Vinci, Italian, Europe, Renaissance, botanical, proportion, *The Annunication,* Florence, Italy, Andrea del Verrocchio, *Baptism of Christ*, *Ginevra de’Benci, La Madonna Benois, St. Jerome, The Adoration of the Magi, The Virgin of the Rocks, Madonna and Child,* Milan, crossbow, *The Last Supper, Mona Lisa, St. Anne, Virgin and Child, St. John the Baptist*

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**Title:** Edgar Degas

**Written and illustrated by:** Mike Venezia

**First Line:** “Edgar Degas was born in Paris, France, in 1834.”

**Last Line:** “When Degas died in 1917, people were surprised to discover that his studio was filled with small, beautiful, wax figures.”

**Vocabulary:** Paris, France, Self-Portrait, The Parade, Race Horses in front of the Stand, Ironing Women, Cafe Concert aux Ambassadeurs, pastel, The Rehearsal, Danseuse au Bouquet, Ballet Rehearsal on the Stage, galleries, Renaissance, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Andrea Mantegna, Calvary, Madonna of the Rocks, Louvre, Neoclassical, Romantic, Mme, Recamier, Jacque Louis David, Jean Auguste Ingres, Theodore Gericault, Eugene Delacroix, The Combat of the Giaour and Hossan, The Bellelli Family, portrait, Musee d’Orsay, Marguerite Degas, Rene Degas, The Daughter of Jephthah, Edouard Manet, A Woman Seated Beside a Vase of Flowers, The Opera Orchestra, Stacks of Wheat (End of Summer), The Road in the Woods, The Luncheon of the Boating Party, Alfred Sisley, Camille, Pissaroo, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Impressionists, *at the races in the countryside, edgar degas, A woman ironing, the dance class, the millinery shop, in a café, the absinthe, mary cassatt at the Louvre: the paintings gallery, the letter,* mary cassatt*, little dancer aged fourteen*

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**TITLE:** MONET

**Written and illustrated by:** mike venezia

**first Line:** “cLAUDE MONET WAS BORN IN pARIS, FRANCE, IN 1840.”

**lAST LINE:** “hE WAS EVEN ABLE TO PAINT MIST AND FOG AND MAKE IT LOOK REAL.”

**vOCABULARY:** PARIS, FRANCE, IMPRESSIONISM, *MONET PAINTING IN HIS GARDEN AT ARGENTEUIL, TERRACE AT SAINTE-ADRESSE,* THE mETROPOLITAN mUSEUM OF ART, nEW yORK, REFLECT, *THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, SUNSET, MONET WORKING IN HIS FLOATING STUDIO ARGENTEUIL,* STUDIO, CANVAS, LE HAVRE, *MARIO ORCHARD, LEON MARCHON, lAWYER, cARICATURE OF A mAN WITH A LARGE NOSE,* eUGENE BOUDIN, *LA GRENOUILLERE,* PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR, ALRED SISELY, FREDERIC BAZILLE, *WOMEN IN THE GARDEN, THE CRADE, CAMILLE WITH jEAN, THE LION HUNT, IMPRESSION: SUNRISE,* MUSEE MARMOTTAN, *GARE SAINT-LAZARE,* tHE aRT INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, *THE CLIFF WALK POURVILLE, THE MANNEPORTE, ETRETAT,* EASEL, *HAYSTACKS END OF DAY, AUTUMN, HAYSTACKS END OF SUMMER, EVENING, THE jAPANESE FOOTBRIDGE,* GIVERNY, pHILADELPHIA mUSEUM OF ART, *WATER LILIES,* CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, *PANEL OF WATER LILY DECORATIONS,* MUSEE D L’ORANGERIE, *sNOW AT ARGENTEUIL,* MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, *VENICE THE GRAND CANAL*

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**TITLE:** VAN GOGH

**WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:** MIKE VENEZIA

**First Line:** “Vincent van gogh was one of the most tragic artists who ever lived.”

**last line:** “That’s why vincent van gogh is one of the world’s greatest artists.”

**vocabulary:** *self portrait,* the art institute of chicago, tragic, holland, gallery, *miners, peasant walking with stick, sand pit with men at work,* amsterdam, *sien with child on lap, on the road, potato eaters, nuenun, two women in the peat, framhouse in provence, arles, the postman roulin, arles,* paris, france, gauguin, *bedroom at arles, self-portrait with bandaged ear, the starry night, cypresses, olive trees, sunflowers, wheatfiled with crows, garden of the poets, sunflowers, olive grove, l’arlesienne*