

February 2017 TEACHERS' NOTES & ACTIVITIES

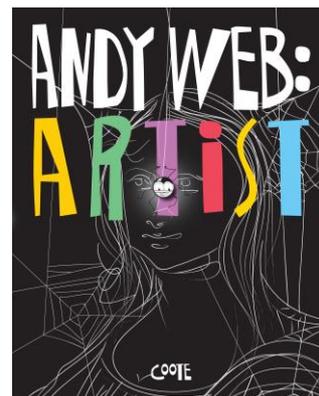
Andy Web: Artist

Written and illustrated by Maree Coote

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SYNOPSIS

Andy Web is an ambitious young spider who lives in the National Gallery and dreams of becoming a famous artist. But Andy does not yet know how to draw, so he decides to teach himself by studying the works of the great masters and tracing their lines with his web. He tries each different style of art, but all the while he is dreaming of working in colour – which is hard for a spider with only white web to draw with. Suddenly, he has a brilliant idea when he is inspired by the colours in the gallery lights. He uses them as a backdrop for his art so that the lights fill his web with colour!

THEMES

- creative arts
- visual literacy
- study of history, society and cultural environment
- ambition and dedication to goals/ lateral thinking
- learning technologies / teaching oneself new skills
- finding one's own particular self-expression
- awareness/observation /ideas
- humour

DISCUSSION POINTS & ACTIVITIES

1. Cultural Environment: What is 'art'? Where might you see works of art? Is there art in your home, or in your school or local street?

ACTIVITY: Draw a picture of one of the works of art you have seen at home / school / street. Describe it to the class. Do you like it? What made you remember it?

2. What is an art 'genre'? It is the style of (or approach to) making art. (Genres are listed in the back page of the book). What makes artists choose to make art in differing styles? What genre do you like the best?

ACTIVITY 1: Make an excursion to the local Art Gallery and look for the different styles of art there.

ACTIVITY 2: Can you draw a spider in the style of a traditional family portrait? Can you draw a spider in the style of Abstract Art?

3. History/Society: Why do people make art? What is its purpose? Discuss cave painting, weaving, carving, jewellery and all forms of decoration.

ACTIVITY: Have everyone create a caveman handprint artwork.

4. Visual Literacy: In the story, Andy wants to be an artist. Why can't he simply be one? To be an artist, Andy discovers he needs to practise, just like the great artists who studied by copying the masterworks.

ACTIVITY 1: Practise drawing a Still Life: arrange some objects and have everyone draw the same objects in their own personal style. Then look at all the different results. Discuss what you like about each version.

ACTIVITY 2: Let's practise drawing by copying a famous artwork, e.g.: Have everyone draw the Mona Lisa in their own style. Discuss each students' artwork. What is similar? What is different?

5. Frida Kahlo was famous for painting self-portraits. Why do you think artists make self-portraits?

ACTIVITY: Practise drawing a picture of yourself. What is your most interesting feature?

6. What is an art medium? (e.g.: paint, play-do, collage, crayons, camera, computer, potato stamp, etc.)

ACTIVITY: Have everyone draw/paint/create five spiders, each in a different medium. Discuss the differences.

7. Maree Coote's drawings of Andy's spider-web art is interesting. What makes a drawing look like a spider web? Is it the linking lines that join the picture up, so that it would hold together if it was a real web?

ACTIVITY: Can you draw a picture that looks like it was made from a spider's web?

8. The pictures in Andy's art gallery have different moods. Can you describe the feeling and mood of the pictures in the gallery?

ACTIVITY: Can you draw a happy picture? ...an angry picture? ...a peaceful picture?

9. Humour: What funny things did you notice in the book? A 'web developer' is a funny job for a spider isn't it? What other jobs could a spider do when they grow up? (engineer, weaver, spin doctor, explorer, hunter...) Can you notice anything funny about the people in the pictures in the gallery?

There are flies hidden in the pictures of this book. Can you find them all? (Answers: www.cleverkids.net.au)

ACTIVITY: Can you draw a picture and hide a small drawn object in it somewhere? Can your friends find the object hidden in your picture?

FUN FACTS

1. Q: What is the difference between a cob web and a spider web? (A: A cob web has been vacated.)
2. The word 'Arachnid' comes from the word 'Arachne', the name of the Greek goddess of weaving.
3. The Egyptian Goddess of weaving is named 'Neith', and she is also known by the spider emblem.
4. When you do a self-portrait by looking in the mirror, you will see your face backwards!