

Y3/4 – Assembly Plan 2

How can artists tell stories without using words?

Preparation:

- Display several artworks or images that tell a story visually (e.g. cave paintings, comic strips, murals, stained glass windows, famous paintings like Guernica or The Bayeux Tapestry).
- Bring in a wordless picture book (e.g. Journey by Aaron Becker or The Arrival by Shaun Tan).
- Optional: display a child's drawing that has a story behind it.

1	<p>1. Welcome & Question (2 mins) Introduce the <i>Big Question</i>: “How can artists tell stories without using words?” Ask: Can we tell a story without talking or writing?</p>
2	<p>2. Wordless Story (3 mins) Show 3–4 pages from a wordless picture book or a comic panel without speech bubbles. Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's happening here?• What do you think will happen next?
3	<p>3. A Look at Cave Art (3 mins) Briefly introduce cave paintings from thousands of years ago. Explain: Before writing, people told stories by painting on walls! Ask: What kind of stories do you think they told?</p>

4	<p>4. Artists Who Use Symbols (4 mins) Show artworks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Haring (simple figures and movement) • Frida Kahlo (self-portraits with powerful symbols) • Banksy (graffiti that tells a message) <p>Ask: What do you think each artist is saying?</p>
5	<p>5. Children as Visual Storytellers (3 mins) Share a drawing made by a child (real or example) and explain the story behind it.</p> <p>Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever drawn a picture that had a story behind it? • What did you want people to feel when they saw it?
6	<p>6. Key Message (2 mins) Art is a powerful way to tell stories — across time, cultures, and languages. Your drawings, paintings, and designs can say something important.</p>
7	<p>7. Reflection (2 mins) Close your eyes. Think of a memory, a dream, or a message you want to share. How would you turn it into a picture? Open your eyes. You don't need words to speak through art.</p>

Music

“Pictures at an Exhibition” by Mussorgsky (instrumental – inspires visual imagination)

Or

“Express Yourself” by Labrinth – about being confident and creative

Cross-Curricular Links:

Art: Exploring visual language, symbolism, and composition

English: Storytelling, sequencing, imagination

History: Understanding historical sources like cave art

PSHE: Expressing emotions, building confidence