

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*), I realized the root cause of why I was potentially offending one of the key players in our institutional setting: I missed teaching art. With all of my T-L duties—including teaching, planning, facilitating, mentoring and cataloguing—the plain and simple truth was I did not have time to teach art.

Before embarking on this wonderful journey as a teacher-librarian, my last regular classroom placement had been with Grade 1s. I loved sharing my passion for Vincent van Gogh, with photos from a trip to Europe that followed his trail through the south of France to my final destination, the van Gogh museum in Amsterdam.

After van Gogh, we explored Claude Monet and turned his Japanese bridges into the most beautiful gift bags I had ever seen! Following our Impressionistic turn, we experimented with Picasso's Cubist style to produce our self-portraits. Despite having a chin placed where an eye should have been and lips replacing ear space, these self-portraits had an uncanny resemblance to my 25 Grade 1 students!

Eventually, as we craved both a Canadian and female inspiration in our journey, we turned to one of our national treasures, Emily Carr. Our class thrilled at recreating her West Coast totem poles whilst studying Native Canadians during Thanksgiving and harvest studies. I was hooked on art and so were they!

### **The Plan: The Key Resource**

Now, how do I take past successful, but primary-level, art experiences and adapt them to the needs of Grade 8 individuals who are badly in need of exposure to the World's Greatest Artists as well as inquiry and research experiences? And how do I get them to produce artwork ready for report card evaluation?

Well, I am fortunate enough to teach in

### **Gina's Current Favourite Visual Art Resources (Abridged):**

Simcoe County District School Board's  
*Nipissing University Visual Arts Part 1: Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artist Series*  
Contact Jennifer Copeland at  
jcopeland@scdsb.on.ca

*Getting to Know the Worlds' Greatest Artist*,  
series by Mike Venezia.  
Contact The Source at marsha@thesource.ca

*Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artist*,  
video series.  
Contact Crystal Productions at  
www.crystalproductions.com or  
1-800-255-8629

*Picasso and the Girl with the Long Ponytail*,  
by Laurence Anholt.  
ISBN: 0764150316

*Meet the Masterpieces. Strategies, Activities,  
and Posters to Explore Great Works of Art*,  
by Bobbie Chertok, Goody Hirshfeld,  
and Marilyn Rosh.  
ISBN: 0590492128

*Math-terpieces: The Art of Problem Solving*,  
by Greg Tang, illustrated by Greg Paprocki.  
ISBN: 0439443881

*Anna's Art Adventure*,  
by Bjorn Sortland, illustrated by Lars Elling.  
ISBN: 157053764

*I SPY Animals in Art* (series),  
by Lucy Micklethwait.  
ISBN: 0006644074

*Emily Carr*,  
by Jo Ellen Bogart.  
ISBN: 0887766404

*The Usborne Book of Art Ideas*,  
by Fiona Watt.  
ISBN: 0439207169