Name:

Date:

Is It Art?

Part 1

Teacher Reads An art exhibit, or show, might not be everyone's idea of a fun way to spend an afternoon. But there are always interesting things to see and learn.

"What a way to spend a hot August day!" Paul said to his
13 pal Alfonso. "I want to go play ball, but I have to go to the art
29 show in the park. My art teacher said that we all have to go
43 to this show. Next week each of us has to report on it to the
58 class. It's part of the grade for the class," Paul said. "At least
71 you said you would go with me, Alfonso. That will make it
83 less painful. Get your bike and let's ride to the park now."
95 "Wait and see, Paul," said Alfonso. "The art show might
105 not be as bad as you think. Let's go."

Part 2

Teacher Reads People may agree or disagree about what makes good art. Each person has a right to an opinion about works of art. Read on to find out what Paul thinks about the art he sees.

114 When Paul and Alfonso got to the lawn on the east side
126 of the park, they saw lots of people. Some were selling things,
138 but many others were just looking. Paul and Alfonso locked
148 up the bikes. Then they went to see what the artists had
160 made.
161 "Look at this!" Paul said. "It's a straw stuck to the side of
174 a box. Is this art? It has a name, too. It's called 'Straw Dream.'
188 You can own it for $45. That costs a lot. I hope this work of
203 art is not a fraud. Let's go to the other end of this row."

©Curriculum Associates, LLC Copying permitted for classroom use.

Name:

Date:

Part 2 continued

On the way, they paused to look at a painting of a man with a hawk sitting on his hand. "It looks like that man was training the hawk," said Alfonso. "The hawk is gripping the man's hand with its claws."

Part 3

Teacher Reads Paul certainly has opinions (thoughts) about the art he sees. He is critical of some art that he thinks is bad. But there is other art that Paul really admires.

Paul and Alfonso went on. They came to a booth where a man on a stool was making ink drawings of people. The artist worked very fast, and his drawings were flawless, perfect. "What a remarkable likeness for such fast work!" Paul said in surprise. "Some of this art is art after all!"

Alfonso asked, "Have you seen what you needed to see, Paul? Can we go?"

"There is one more thing," said Paul with a grin. "When I saw Jade, she said we had to see a painting down this way. The painting is called 'Artist's Flaw.' It's all white with a black border. I want to chat with the artist about how it was made. All the art we have seen today is helping me make sense of how to look at art. Let's go see it."

©Curriculum Associates, LLC Copying permitted for classroom use.