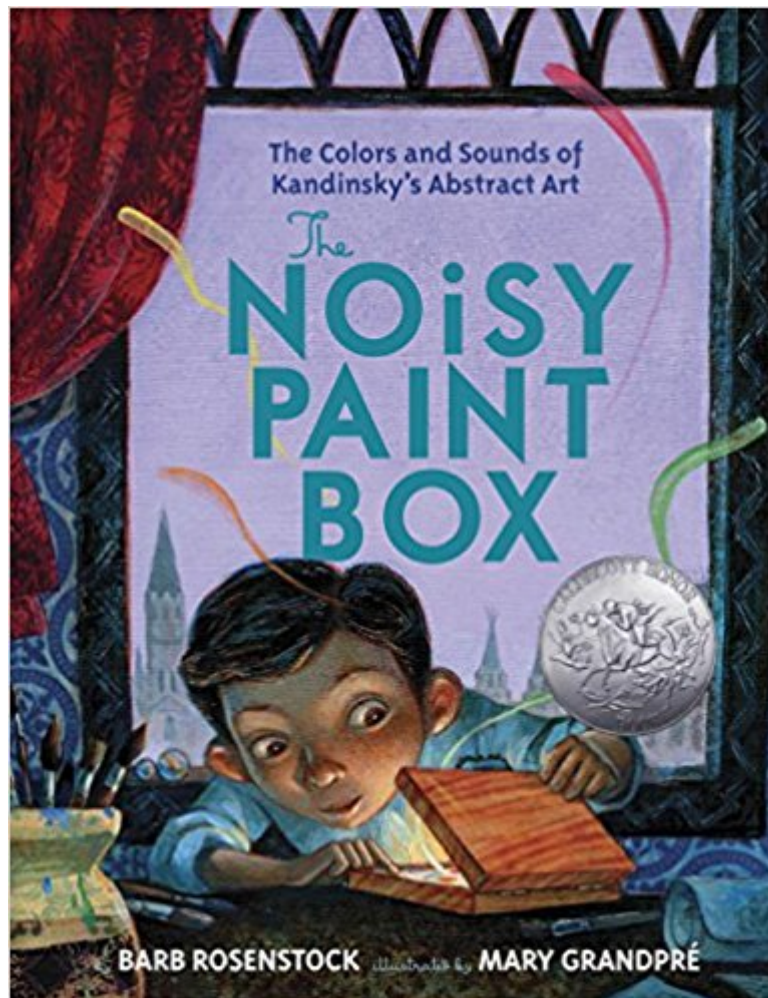




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The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors And Sounds Of Kandinsky's Abstract Art



Synopsis

A Caldecott Honor Book Vasya Kandinsky was a proper little boy: he studied math and history, he practiced the piano, he sat up straight and was perfectly polite. And when his family sent him to art classes, they expected him to paint pretty houses and flowers "like a proper artist. " But as Vasya opened his paint box and began mixing the reds, the yellows, the blues, he heard a strange sound "the swirling colors trilled like an orchestra tuning up for a symphony! And as he grew older, he continued to hear brilliant colors singing and see vibrant sounds dancing. But was Vasya brave enough to put aside his proper still lifes and portraits and paint . . . music? " In this exuberant celebration of creativity, Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPr  tell the fascinating story of Vasily Kandinsky, one of the very first painters of abstract art. Throughout his life, Kandinsky experienced colors as sounds, and sounds as colors "and bold, groundbreaking works burst forth from his noisy paint box. " Backmatter includes four paintings by Kandinsky, an author's note, sources, links to websites on synesthesia and abstract art.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars " See all reviews " (76 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,433 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in " Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art " #38 in " Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical " #83 in " Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History "

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Vasya Kandinsky is a well-behaved child, always doing what he's told and what's expected, but he just can't seem to conform when it comes to his art. When his aunt insists that he learn to appreciate art like all proper Russian boys, Vasya tries, but his paint box is simply too noisy. He

can't paint proper houses and landscapes with music that erupts from his colors. He has to create music with his paintbrush... and something entirely new and different. The NOISY PAINT BOX is a beautifully illustrated story about a boy who decides to be true to himself and let the colors sing! This book teaches a worthwhile lesson while opening the table for discussion about synesthesia and abstract art.

This would be a GREAT read aloud as part of a unit of study on abstract art--in grades 2 through 4. During the first read, I didn't understand the idea of Kadinsky, the artist, hearing the sounds of the colors he was working with or having sounds trigger colors and shapes - but the author's note cleared this up. It seems that Kadinsky may have had a "harmless genetic condition called synesthesia--"one sense triggers another." This said - I'd read aloud the book, then read aloud the author's note and then read aloud the book again (perhaps in a later lesson) thinking about how the author reveals Kadinsky's synesthesia and why this was important to his work. There's so much to discuss as part of rereading sections of this book - the rich vocabulary ("snapping cerulean points," "crunching crimson squares"), what does it mean to be "proper" and then resist being proper, etc. The writing is strong and has a good flow, lending itself to reading aloud. It's listed as appropriate for ages 4-8 (on); this might be a bit ambitious for the youngest of this group - they may not be able to grapple with main ideas about Kadinsky trying to conform and then breaking out of the mold and they may not understand the idea that certain sounds triggered shapes and colors in Kadinsky's mind. I'd go for 2nd-4th grade.

This story is everything a children's book should be. It has a beginning, middle, and an end. The main character grows and changes throughout the story. The story deals with an internal conflict that the main character needs to decide how to live his life. I also love that in the back of the book, there are real pictures of Vasily Kandinsky's artwork. I truly believe that the illustrations complete the story. They are friendly and imaginative. Mary's use of color is spot on. Congrats to both Barb Rosenstock and Mary Grandpre. Pam Regan

Creative approach to learning about artists and how even when they are young they see, feel, and hear the world in a unique way. Since the schools are cutting money for art this book shows children talented in art that other artists feel the way they do about painting even seeing colors as sounds. K-6th grades and even pre-schools could enrich their art impoverished programs by reading this book to the class.

My son and I both loved the book! Ms. Rosenstock brilliantly captures Kandinski's "awakening" with her words. And the accompanying pictures are a dazzling illustration of how his world came alive to color. Thank you to both the writer and illustrator!

I was quite fascinated with the idea of 'hearing' colors, and that this young boy became a famous painter of abstract work. My 6-year-old granddaughter enjoyed the story line, yet this is a simple, easy-to-read-book for a 1st grader who is reading chapter books. Because of my own interest, I did some online research on Vadya Kadinsky and synesthesia, and was able to share additional information and paintings with both my granddaughter and her mother. My granddaughter's mother is an artist and is from Russia, and I later learned that this is, in fact, her favorite artist. The Noisy Paint Box has been added to their library. Excellent - I would highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in painting.

This is a cute story about a boy who is bored with the typical life he is expected to live... and who discovers a new way to express himself when his aunt gives him a box of paints. The drawings were great and colorful but the words were difficult to read. I used this book with a 7 and a 5 year old and had a tough time keeping their attention. Nice expressions of color and sound though and a fun view of abstract art.

I got this for my nephew because he was begging for it. He is in 1 st grade, he is not able to read it on his own but he is able to read some of it with help. I really enjoyed reading the book to him and teaching how it is a true story. It was also nice to see him enjoying something that is teaching him about abstract art.

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