



# TEACHING SNEAKY ART

Always remind kids that their own art does not have to look like anything in a book or like anyone's else's art. Books and pictures are good for getting ideas, but every artist is free to express themselves. That's the point.

However,

**Sneaky Art is NOT:** mean, defacing, ugly, hurtful, messy, or permanent. Sneaky Art is NOT graffiti or marking up someone else's property.

**Sneaky Art IS:** funny, clever, thoughtful, temporary, subversive, playful, and surprising!

## Before Looking at the Book

You might talk about:

What does the word 'sneaky' mean?

What pranks or April Fool's tricks have been played?

What is the 'concept' behind conceptual art?

How does seeing something out of its usual context make it more visible?

Does that/can that turn something ordinary into art?

Think of examples of art that surprises.

## While Looking at the Book

Showing the whole book may be too much for one session. Choose the project(s) ahead of time that the class will focus on. Share those pictures and get the kids to generate ideas for their own variations. Show and demonstrate the materials you'll be using. Talk about where they might sneak their finished projects.

## After Looking at the Book

This is when the fun begins. Most of the art projects are very simple and can be created in just a few minutes. Some are more challenging, and need time for glue to dry. The instructions are in the book, so even if you're not an artist yourself, you can help kids make successful work.

You can go beyond the book, of course. Challenge your kids to turn ordinary items into a work of art. What can they do with a page from a newspaper, for instance? Or twenty toothpicks? Or a cereal box?

When the art is ready, it's time to get sneaky in one of these ways:

Contain the event inside the classroom or library, giving everyone a chance to both hide and find a piece of art.

Have a scavenger hunt, with teams and specific treasures to discover.

Surprise the principal or conduct an art attack in the playground or cafeteria.

Make plans with each kid for a sneaky art action at home and have them report.

Take pictures!!

Send photos to [sneakyartstudio@gmail.com](mailto:sneakyartstudio@gmail.com) for our Sneak of the Week campaign!