

Ella Gillespie and Essex Gall

Aesthetics Lesson Plan

Total Time: 40-45 mins

Materials: The Dot, paper, crayons/colored pencils

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss why we like the way some things look and sound and don't like the way other things look and sound
2. Discuss what counts as art
3. Discuss if there is a delay in recognizing something as beautiful, or if you know instantly.

Introduction (5 mins)

- Re-enforce hand raising as our method for taking turns to speak.
- Ask everyone to share what they think the most beautiful picture is/would look like?
- Conversation demo:
  - Essex: I think the most beautiful picture would have a boat in it.
  - Ella: Why is the boat in the picture?
  - Essex: When I see a shiny boat, it looks so even on both sides. That's beauty.
- Continuously ask if they think a given object in the picture is beautiful, and why it is beautiful.
  - Reasons for beauty should hopefully move towards a feeling, not necessarily a physical characteristic.
- An easy topic to revert to is colors; ask if certain colors are beautiful or ugly.
- What do you think counts as art?

Reading Activity: The Dot (10-15 mins)

- Do you think that the dot that Vashti draws is beautiful?
- Do you ever go into a museum and see a piece of abstract art that you think you could have drawn?
- Do you think that art needs to look realistic? Does it need to look like real life?
- What do you think counts as art? Does the squiggle that the little boy draws count as art?
- Vashti didn't make the dot to be art, she just made the dot. Is it still art if that's not what we intended?

Transition Movement Activity: Flying (3 mins)

- Ask them to demonstrate how an ugly bird might fly versus a beautiful bird.
- If they demonstrate different ways of flying for ugly and beautiful birds, ask why they think there is a difference.

Activity: Museum art vs. Child's art (5 mins)

- Show the kids several pieces of art done by adults and several done by children. Have them guess which is which.

Transition Activity: ugly and beautiful sounds (5 mins)

- Listen to some beautiful noises in our environment and ask the kids if they think they sound beautiful
  - Listen to the birds chirping outside
  - Listen to the leaves rustling
- Ask the kids to take turns standing up and making one beautiful sound and one ugly sound
  - After everyone has gone we can discuss why or why not these sounds are beautiful or ugly

Activity: Drawing (10 mins)

- Ask each one to choose their favorite and least favorite colored crayon/marker. Have everyone draw something beautiful with their least favorite color, and something ugly with their favorite color.
- Discussion: Does your favorite color (which they hopefully consider beautiful) make an ugly thing beautiful, and vice versa?

Concluding Questions (2 mins)

- What is the difference to you between something being beautiful and being ugly?
- Are we happy with the description of this difference?