

# Vincent van Gogh (Little People, BIG DREAMS)

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Art, Emotions, Perseverance

**Book Brief:** Learn about the life of Vincent van Gogh, one of the world's most influential and best-loved artists.

**Author:**  
Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

**Illustrator:**  
Alette Straathof



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Read the title. “This is a biography, a true story, about the life of an artist named Vincent van Gogh.”

**The Pictures:** Show the inside front cover of the sunflowers and the page in which Vincent is painting *The Starry Night*. These are replicas of two of van Gogh's most famous paintings.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Have you seen images of these two paintings before? Where did you see them?”

**Vocabulary:** countryside, emotions, inspiration, talent

**Purpose for Reading:** Vincent van Gogh is a famous artist. As we read, look at the illustrations. What can we learn about Vincent van Gogh through the pictures in this book?

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does Vincent feel about going to boarding school as a child? What details in the words and pictures make you think so?
- Why wasn't Vincent good at selling art? What details in the words and pictures make you think so?
- How did Vincent discover painting?
- How did painting help Vincent?
- What is something that brings you joy?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** The illustrator helps show us Vincent van Gogh's emotions throughout the book. Flip back through the illustrations and ask students to share how Vincent is feeling at various parts of his life. Ask students to share connections with the emotions that Vincent experiences.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Vincent experienced many big emotions. He used painting to calm his mind and bring him peace. What are some ways you can calm your mind when you are experiencing big emotions? As a class, create your own calm down corner in the classroom. Include a list of calm down strategies created with your students.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about artists by reading other books such as [Frida Kahlo](#) and [Salvador Dalí](#).