

## Tempe Center for the Arts

by **Mary Erickson, Ph.D.**  
and **Arizona art teacher Jamie Watts, Ph.D.**

*Read Me a Picture* is a three-lesson mini unit plan designed in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name that highlights nine Arizona children's book illustrators at the Gallery at the Tempe Center for the Arts.

[Read Me a Picture Exhibition Preview PowerPoint](#)

### Themes

- Theme in Life: Our world is filled with words and pictures that give us information.
- Theme in Art: Artists use words and pictures to tell stories and share ideas.

### Key Questions



What subject matter and symbols do you see?



How do some artists show things in realistic detail and other artists simplify them?

### Community Connections

All around us, on TV, on the Internet and on the streets of our communities, we are confronted with verbal and pictorial messages. Artists, designers and advertisers use words and pictures to capture attention, entertain and sell products, services and ideas.

### Activities

[Pre-visit classroom activity: Reading Words and Pictures \(pdf\)](#)

[TCA Activity: Exploring How Pictures Tell Stories at the Tempe Center for the Arts \(pdf\)](#)

[Post-Visit Classroom Activity: Making My Own Book \(pdf\)](#)

### Resources

[Preview the Read Me a Picture Exhibition PowerPoint](#)

[Reading Words and Pictures PowerPoint](#)

[Exploring Words and Pictures at the Tempe Center for the Arts \(pdf\)](#)

[Making My Own Book PowerPoint](#)

[Questor Questions.pdf](#)

### Web Resources

[Degrees of Abstraction](#)

This presentation uses landscapes from the Minneapolis Institute of Art and Walker Museum to introduce different degrees of abstraction in art. (Click "Present" to begin.)

**Supplies**

11-inch x 17-inch paper (or other rectangular paper)

Markers

Crayons

Pencils

Scissors

Ruler

Rubber stamps

**Optional items for binding**

Rubber bands, ribbon, yarn or string

Bamboo skewers for spine support

**Credits**

Anne Coe

Shonto Begay

Molly Schaar Idle

Ken and Sylvia Marantz

Jamie Watts' students at Ironwood High School in the Peoria Unified School District.

Trader Joe's of Tempe

**Estimated Time**

Previsit Lesson = 30 to 60 minutes

TCA Visit Lesson = Field Trip

Postvisit Lesson = 180 to 300 minutes