



About Augustine

Moving all the way from the South Pole to the North Pole isn't easy for the young penguin Augustine. Uprooted from her home, she misses her friends, her grandma and grandpa and her old bedroom. There are all kinds of unfamiliar faces at the North Pole, and everything looks strange and different. When it's time to go to her new school, Augustine gets cold feet. But with the help of a few colored pencils and some inspiration from Picasso, this shy, artistic young penguin discovers a way to break the ice with her classmates and feel at home on the other end of the world.

Augustine's "penguinized" versions of van Gogh, Munch, Picasso and others are a delightful way to introduce children to art. A clever, charming story told from a penguin's eye view, Augustine illustrates that art is all around us — and is a language everyone understands.

About the Author and Illustrator

Mélanie Watt is the author and illustrator of *Scaredy Squirrel*, *Leon the Chameleon* and the Learning with Animals collection and the illustrator of *Where Does a Tiger-Heron Spend the Night?* and *Bearcub and Mama*. She currently lives near Montreal, Quebec.

Introduction

ART MATERIALS

Download or print out reproductions of original artwork, or take out books from the library containing pictures of artwork from the following artists: Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memory*, Vincent van Gogh's *The Bedroom*, Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Andy Warhol's pop art portraits of a Campbell's Soup Can and Pablo Picasso's *Self-portrait in Blue Period*.

The activities and discussion topics in the *Augustine* learning resource will help you introduce your class to art, art techniques and elements of art. Before you begin working on the activities, take a few minutes to discuss some of the following art terms with your class: art techniques, such as painting, drawing, collage and sculpture; and different elements of art such as color, shape, line, background and figures. After your class discussion, treat your students to a reading of *Augustine*, a fun storytime book.

Once story time is over, show students reproductions of the artwork listed in the art materials section. Ask your students to answer the following questions: Do you recognize the art? If yes, where have you seen it? Do you know the artist's name? How does the art make you feel? What elements or techniques do you recognize? After students have answered each question, explain to them who the artists are and discuss the different techniques the artists used to create their art. Next, compare and contrast *Augustine*'s "penguinized" versions with the reproductions of the original artworks. Ask students to comment on both by describing the similarities and differences between each.

Now it's time for your students to find their inner artist!

Discussion Questions and Activities

The following discussion topics and activities are suitable for ages 3–7.

1. How Do You Look When You Feel ...

Augustine uses art to express her feelings and emotions. Ask your class to share stories about when they felt sad, happy, excited, bored, etc. As part of an individual in-class assignment, ask your class to create a picture that captures an emotion or mood that they have experienced. Have them present their artwork to the class once they are finished.

2. All the Things That Make Me Special

Throughout the story we learn three important facts about *Augustine*: she lived in the South Pole and then moved to the North Pole, her parents named her after the famous artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir and she likes to do art. Divide students into partners and ask them to interview each other. Explain to your class that they should prepare five to seven questions to ask their partner. For example, What is your favorite food? Do you have a special talent? Do you have a hobby? The answers to these questions should reveal special facts about their partner. Once everyone is finished, ask each student to share two or three special facts about his/her partner with the class.

3. Create a Portrait

For this activity, photocopy the portrait template at the end of this guide and hand out a copy to each student. Ask your class to use the template to create a portrait of someone special in their lives, such as a friend or a family member. Once they are finished, ask your students to present their work to the class and describe the person in the portrait.

4. A Day in My Life

ART MATERIALS

For this activity, hand out five pieces of different colored construction paper to each person in your class. Create an art station for your students to share the following materials: different colored markers and pencil crayons and a stapler.

As part of an individual in-class assignment, ask your students to use each piece of construction paper to create an art booklet that illustrates a day in their lives. Explain to your class that they should create illustrations of their daily routines at home and at school from morning to night. Once each person has completed illustrating and coloring his/her own piece, ask students to staple the sheets together as a booklet. Have them present their work to the class.

5. Create an Art Show

With your class, discuss and define different art techniques such as collage, sculpture, drawing and painting. Set up four art stations that include materials for each technique and assign students to each station. Ask students to use the material at their assigned station to create a piece of art that depicts something special in their lives (e.g. a family member, a pet, an event, a person, a memory). Once everyone has completed their artwork, ask students to create a special frame for their art. With the help of your students, set up an art exhibit showcasing everyone's art. Create an open area in the classroom and place everyone's artwork on display. Next, ask students to partner up and visit each piece of art on display and discuss the art together. As part of their discussion, ask students to share positive comments about each piece of art, to describe what they see and express how the art makes them feel.

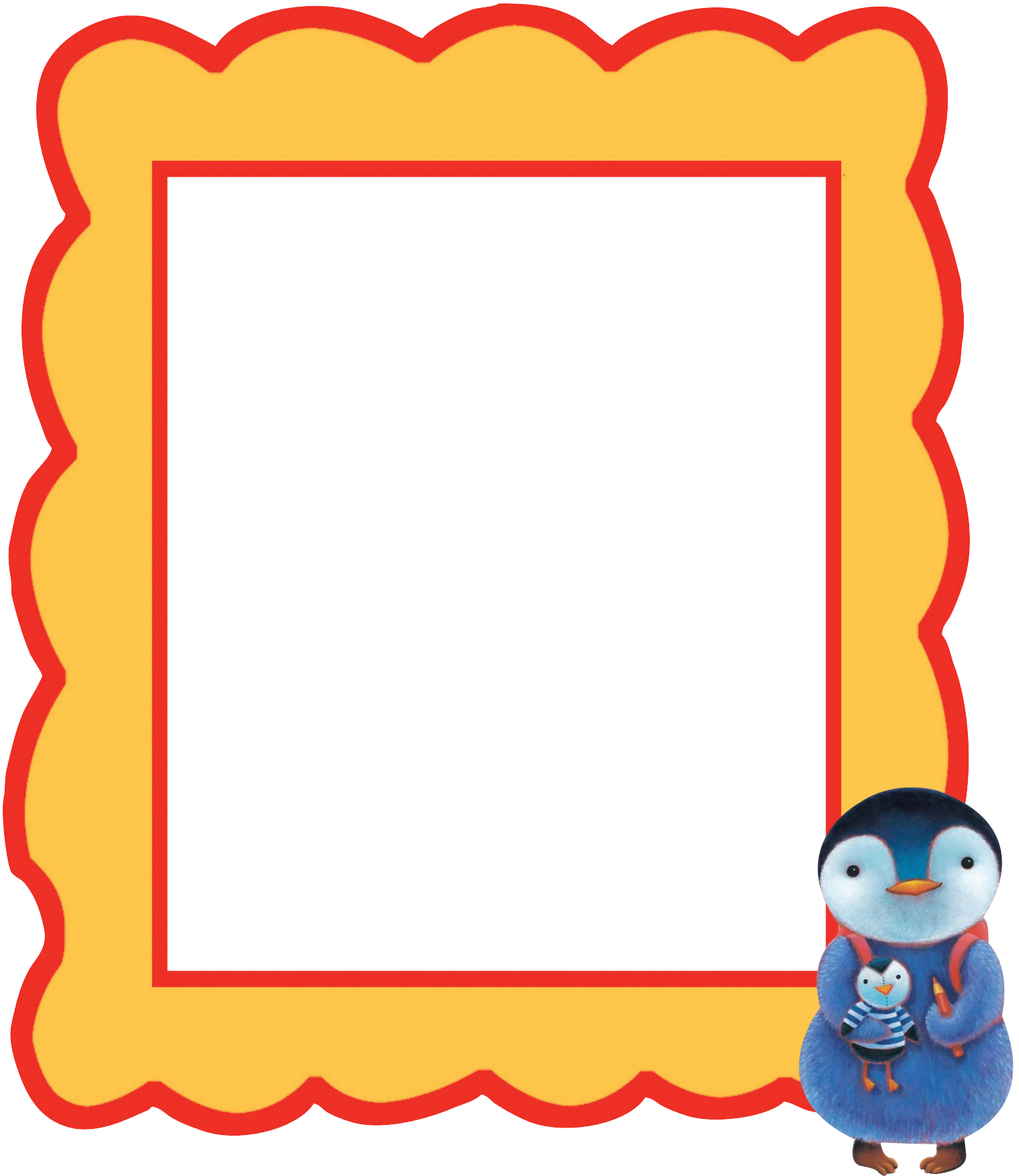
6. Make a Match

For this activity, photocopy the matching game template at the end of this guide and hand out a copy to each student. Divide students into groups of four and ask them to work together to match the animal with the corresponding animal's feet. Once everyone has completed the game, ask each group to share their answers with the class.

As an extension to this activity, ask each group to work together and create their own matching game. Explain to students that they should start by thinking of a theme for their matching game. Once each group has completed their game, ask them to share it with the class and have everyone in the class play each game.

Create a Portrait

Create a portrait of someone special in your life, such as a friend or a family member. Once you have finished the portrait, present it to the class and describe the person in the portrait.



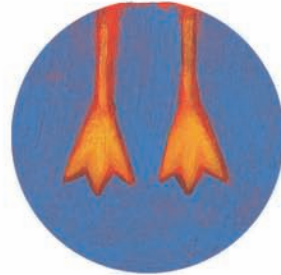
Make a Match

Match the animal in column 'A' with the animal's feet in column 'B.'
Share your answers with a classmate once you are done.

A



B



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