The Adventures of Katie

James Mayhew brings the world of art and culture to life with Katie’s latest exciting adventures.

Teachers’ Notes
Katie’s Picture Show

When Katie first visits an art gallery, she discovers what fun it is to look at pictures. She climbs into famous paintings where she meets the people and animals inside the frames.

1. Look carefully at the painting of *The Hay Wain* by Constable.
   What time of year is it and how do you know that?

2. Look at the picture of *Madame Moitessier Seated* by Jean-August-Dominique Ingres.
   A. Do you think she was rich or poor?
   B. How can you tell?

3. Look at Rousseau’s *Tropical Storm With a Tiger*.
   A. Do you think the tiger likes the storm?
   B. How can you tell?

4. Make a colourful picture using the same shapes as in Malevich’s *Dynamic Suprematism*.

Katie and the Bathers

One hot summer’s day, Katie makes her way to the cool art gallery to look at some pictures painted by Pointillists. They painted thousands of coloured dots side by side to create their pictures. You can see the dots if you look at a Pointillist painting very closely, but these seem to form an image if you look from further away.

1. The first painting Katie sees is called *Bathers at Asnières* by Georges Seurat. Look at it closely.
   A. Is the weather hot or cold? How can you tell?
   B. How many boats can you spot?

2. Look at Seurat’s picture called *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.
   A. Can you find the pet monkey?
   B. What is the little dog wearing on his collar?

3. Katie sees a picture of a magician, called *Portrait of Felix Feneon* by Paul Signac.
   Notice how the artist has painted a starburst of waves, circles, stars and stripes in rainbow colours to suggest the swish of his magic wand.
   Paint your own magic starburst in bright colours and patterns.
Katie and the Spanish Princess

In this book, Katie goes to a gallery to get inspiration for her fancy-dress princess costume. She looks at pictures by three famous Spanish painters and meets a real princess in one of them. When she and the princess swap clothes, Katie discovers what it is like to be a princess for a day.

1. How does Katie feel wearing the princess’s enormous dress?

2. Look very closely at the picture called Don Manuel Osorio de Zuniga. How many cats do you see?

3. Who is the princess’s father?

4. Draw your own picture of a princess. Think hard about what sort of clothes and shoes she might wear. Perhaps you could include a picture of the palace where she lives?

Katie and the Sunflowers

When Katie visits an art gallery, she sees a bright painting called Sunflowers by Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch artist. Vincent painted this picture to welcome his French artist friend, Paul Gauguin, who was coming to stay with him. This book includes pictures by both artists, which show the difference in the places they lived and worked. There is also a picture by Paul Cézanne, another French artist, who knew both Van Gogh and Gauguin.

1. Vincent used colours to show how he was feeling. What colour did Vincent use in Sunflowers to show his happiness?

2. Paint a picture to welcome someone to your classroom. Use colours that show you are happy.

3. What animal can you spot in both Gauguin’s pictures?

4. Imagine you found a treasure chest on an island, just like Katie did. Name what you might find inside.
Katie in London
In this adventure, a bronze lion in Trafalgar Square comes alive and takes Katie and her little brother Jack on a magical tour of London. They see the city’s main sights – St Paul’s Cathedral, The Tower of London, Tower Bridge, The London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and one of London’s famous parks. Find out what Katie and Jack give the lion as a thank you present.

Once you have read the book, see if you can answer these questions about London.

1. What colour are London buses?
2. What does St Paul’s cathedral have instead of a steeple or a spire?
3. What is kept in a small, special room at the Tower of London?
4. What kind of birds live in the Tower of London?
5. What is unusual about Tower Bridge?
6. Whose plays are performed at the Globe Theatre?
7. What is the London Eye?
8. Where does the Changing of the Guard take place?
9. What two animals are on the Royal Crest?
10. Draw a picture of the London sight you would most like to visit.

Answers:
1: Red. 2: A dome. 3: Crown Jewels. 4: Ravens. 5: It can open up. 6: Shakespeare. 7: A big wheel. 8: Buckingham Palace. 9: Lion and unicorn.

Katie and the Dinosaurs
Katie goes to the Natural History Museum to show her grandma the skeletons of dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago. When she goes through a forbidden door, she steps back in time and comes face to face with live dinosaurs. She has an exciting adventure as she helps a lost Hadrosaurus find his way home.

1. Imagine you are in the land of the dinosaurs.
   A. Does it feel hot or cold?
   B. What sounds can you hear?
   C. What can you smell?
   D. What might you find to eat?

2. Which dinosaur was so big that Katie thought it was a hill?
3. Which dinosaur has wings and flies in the sky?
4. Which dinosaurs live in the sea?
5. Draw a fierce Tyrannosaurus Rex.
   Remember to give him a mouth full of very sharp teeth, two tiny front arms, two large clawed back feet and a long tail that helps him to balance.

Answers:
2: Brontosaurus. 3: Pterosaur. 4: Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs.
Katie Meets the Impressionists

In this book, Katie steps inside paintings by Monet, Renoir and Degas, three Impressionist artists. They painted what they saw all around them – their friends and family, gardens, rivers, cities and villages. They also painted people enjoying themselves at the theatre, in cafés and at meal times. Impressionists wanted their paintings to capture a moment in time, so they painted at speed with dabs, dashes and blobs of paint.

Katie wants to give Grandma some flowers for her birthday.
1. What flowers did she collect in the garden shown in *The Luncheon* by Claude Monet?
2. How did the girl in the blue dress help Katie and her flowers?
3. What flowers did she pick on a picnic with Jean and his mother?
4. Why did she throw these flowers away?
5. In which picture did Katie see a girl holding a posy of flowers?
6. How did she get her bunch of flowers in the end?
7. Paint a picture of Katie and her flowers. Use dabs, dashes and blobs of paint just like the Impressionists.

Answers:
1: Sunflowers, daisies, hollyhocks and roses. 2: She put them into her watering can. 3: Poppies. 4: Because a cloud of bees flew after them. 5: In *Her First Evening Out* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir. 6: Katie danced and people threw flowers onto the stage.

Katie and the Mona Lisa

When Katie visits the art gallery, the painting she likes best is the *Mona Lisa* painted by Leonardo da Vinci. Just like a living person, the *Mona Lisa’s* expression appears to change from happy to sad, and it is hard to tell what she might be feeling.

1. Hold the book out at arm’s length to your right side and slowly move it around to the left, looking all the while at the Mona Lisa’s eyes. What do you notice?

2. Katie visits other pictures as well. Can you make the animal sounds she would hear? – a dragon roaring – a lion growling – a horse neighing

3. It is said that Leonardo asked musicians and clowns to make the Mona Lisa smile. What funny things can you do to make someone smile?

4. In *An Angel with a Lute* the angel plays the lute. What other stringed instruments can you name?

5. Paint a picture of one of the people or animals that Mona Lisa meets – Saint George and the dragon, the dancers, a winged lion or an angel playing music.

Answers:
1: Her eyes follow you.
Katie and the British Artists

Katie just can’t decide what she wants to be when she grows up. Perhaps a trip to the gallery with Grandma will help… might the characters in five famous paintings by world-renowned British artists give her some ideas?

1. What job is Katie invited to try in The Cornfield?
2. What part of the country is considered ‘Constable Country’? Explain why?
3. In Rain, Steam and Speed what is running in front of the train?
4. Katie draws a lovely picture for Ben and Whistlejacket to ride into. Draw or paint your own picture for them to ride around.
5. In The Fighting Temeraire, what time of day is it?
6. What did Ben hear drifting across the sea, when playing on the ship?
7. What is Ben’s perfect job?
8. What job does Ben think Katie could perhaps do one day?

Answers
1A: A shepherd. 2: Suffolk, because he lived there and painted its landscapes. 3: A hare. 5: It is sunset, so early evening. 6: His sheep baaing! 7: Being a shepherd. 8: Be an artist.

Katie in Scotland

On holiday in Scotland, Katie meets Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, and invites her along to the Edinburgh Festival. They travel through the Scottish Highlands by train, stopping off in Glasgow before reaching Edinburgh. Here, they explore the city’s famous sights and put on a show as part of the Edinburgh Festival. Numerous well-known Scottish landmarks, buildings and traditions feature throughout the book.

1. Look at the picture of the train journey.
   A. What animals can you spot?
   B. What building can you see?
   C. Can you find a thistle, the national flower of Scotland?
2. What did Nessie see in the Kelvingrove museum in Glasgow?
3. Who is the tallest person in the parade on the Royal Mile?
4. What is the name of the Royal Palace in Edinburgh?
5. Greyfriars Bobby was the loyal dog companion of a 19th century Edinburgh policeman named John Gray. When his master died, Greyfriars Bobby lay on his grave for 14 years until he too died. Use the internet to find out more about Greyfriars Bobby and write your own story about him.
6. Why does the guardsman at the castle fire the One o’Clock Gun?
7. Paint your own picture of the Loch Ness Monster. Since she lives in water, remember to give her fins and flippers for swimming, instead of feet.
8. Find out what these Scottish words in the story mean:
   bonny loch shortbread bagpipes tartan caber
9. What is the name of the dance that Katie, Jack and Grandma do?
Katie and the Waterlily Pond

When Katie visits the art gallery, she decides to enter a competition to paint a picture in the style of Claude Monet, the famous French Impressionist. To get some inspiration, Katie steps into five very different paintings by Monet – one set in woods, another by a river, a third in a busy Paris street, the fourth in the peaceful countryside and the last in Monet’s own colourful garden at Giverny.

1. **What does Blanche give Katie *In the Woods at Giverny***?

2. **Can you spot these things in *The Bathers at La Grenouillère***?
   - A man wearing a hat
   - A woman in a red dress
   - Someone in a boat
   - Two women in old-fashioned bathing costumes
   - Four boats with oars inside

3. **Describe the kind of brushstrokes Monet used to paint the water in *The Bathers at La Grenouillère***.
   - A. Where is the water in sunlight? Where is the water in shadow?

4. **What do you think is happening in *The Rue Montorgueil, Paris***?
   - A. Is this a happy or sad picture? How has Monet shown this mood?
   - B. What is the weather like?

5. **What time of year is it in *The Path through the Poppies***?
   - How can you tell?

6. **Paint your own picture of a bridge over a waterlily pond**.
   - Use quick dabs and dashes of paint, just as Monet did. Include all sorts of different greens (add a splash of white or yellow to make greens brighter and a tiny spot of black or brown to darken them). Include some brightly coloured dabs for flowers, too.

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**Answers**

1: Blanche gives Katie a paint palette, brushes, paints, an easel and some paper. 3: Monet used long horizontal blue, green or grey paint strokes for the water in the foreground (the front) of the picture and shorter white dabs for the water in the background. A: The water is in sunlight in the distance and in shadow near the overhanging trees by the water's edge. 4: The picture shows a French festival (you can tell it is in France by the red, white and blue French flags). A: The bright colours, fluttering flags and crowded street help suggest a happy mood. B: The weather is sunny. 5: It is summer – you can tell because the waterlilies and poppies are in bloom. 6: Use quick dabs and dashes of paint, just as Monet did. Include all sorts of different greens (add a splash of white or yellow to make greens brighter and a tiny spot of black or brown to darken them). Include some brightly coloured dabs for flowers, too.
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Katie is very inquisitive. She likes finding out about people, paintings, places and animals. These eleven books tell stories about the exciting adventures she has on days out with her Grandma. Are you inquisitive too? If you were Katie, which setting would you like to step inside? Read Katie’s books and join in her adventures!

**Be an art detective!**

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