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Camille And The Sunflowers



Synopsis

"Where Camille lived, the sunflowers grew so high they looked like real suns. . . One day a strange man arrived in Camille's town. He had a straw hat and a yellow beard." So begins this fascinating tale of Camille, a little boy who is the son of a small-town postman. Camille meets the man with the yellow beard, and they become friends. This bearded man is a painter named Vincent van Gogh. The story, based on a true-life incident, is beautifully illustrated in full color by the author. This unusual picture storybook will appeal to children who love art-and also to children who simply enjoy a good story.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; 1st edition (August 1, 1994)

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #77,300 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#) #290 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4-In this story that has roots in historical fact, Camille and his postman father meet a stranger who comes to their town with no money and no friends. They give him furniture and friendship, and he paints a picture of each member of their family. The boy visits the man and takes him sunflowers, but the townspeople drive Vincent away because he's too odd and he doesn't have what they consider a real job. This sad tale can stand alone, and, while it omits important details, its tone matches that of other accounts of Van Gogh's short life. Unfortunately, the CIP information, the names and locations of the Roulin family paintings, and a biographical note about Van Gogh are printed inside the book covers under the jacket flaps. The sketchy pen-and-watercolor illustrations

are punctuated with seven fine art reproductions, including a little known "Portrait of Camille Roulin" and the famous "Vase with 14 Sunflowers." The Roulins and the yellow house in which the artist stayed when he was in Arles, France, are seen in context in Bruce Bernard's *Van Gogh* (Dorling Kindersley, 1993). The two books complement one another and provide a greater understanding of this gifted, troubled man. Carolyn Jenks, First Parish Unitarian Church, Portland, ME Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 4-8. Based on a true encounter, this tells the story of a small boy named Camille who befriends the troubled painter Vincent van Gogh when he comes to live in a village in the Dutch countryside. Camille is heartbroken because most of the local people jeer at the artist, who never sells a picture. Some of Anholt's illustrations are based on famous van Gogh scenes (the view of his bedroom, for example); Anholt also includes reproductions of actual paintings, such as van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, and portraits of Camille and his family. This book will show children how art transforms ordinary things. Pair it with Nichol's *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, which is also about a strange, lonely genius who enters a child's daily life. Hazel Rochman

Camille and the Sunflowers, was written by Laurence Anholt, and published in 1994 by Barons Educational Series Inc. This book was manufactured by South China and is a first edition for the United States. This is a children's story about the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh. This tale takes place in London town filled with beautiful sunflowers and trains. Some of the characters in this story are Van Gogh, who is wise, smart and a talented painter. Another character is Camille, a brave, superior, strong, and willing boy. Camille's father, a local postman with a big heart. And last some of the children in the school, which Camille attends. The children are rough and mean and do not like Van Gogh. Vincent felt terrible. He wanted to leave. So one night Camille nearly escaped his house and tried in vain to get mournfully disappointed artist to stay. Van Gogh did not listen. One spring night Camille ran to the painter's yellow house. He saw him packing his bags. Vincent admitted that this was not the right town for him. Camille could not argue with that. Van Gogh mentioned having a parting gift for the boy. He extended a painting of Camille's sunflower patch. The bright boy joyfully ran home with his new treasure securely under his arm. Vincent left the London but Camille always kept the picture. From that day forward he knew to always believe that no matter what other's thought about him, only what he believed to be true was true. This story was a terrific explanation of how Van Gogh became a good painter and how Camille learned a very

important lesson. The descriptions of the character's physique were thoughtful and clear. For example, the author used "quick brown eyes" to create an image in the reader's mind. However, the story could have used more details about Camille's father. Indeed his father was not even given a name in the story. The theme was about a boy learning to trust his own perception of beautiful in spite of what others think. Overall, this was a wonderful children's tale that many would enjoy reading.

Nice way to introduce Vincent VanGogh's history and art to children. After reading the story in preparation for my lesson to present to 3-5 year olds, I chose to reword and explain in more detail some of the sadder parts of the story to make it more appropriate for my audience.

It shipped on time and it looked nice. However when I opened the book up to read to my students the first four pages completely fell out of the book, and the other pages barely stayed in the spine. Not happy.

This is a very well written and illustrated story about a young boy who encounters Vincent Van Gogh and befriends him. It is based on a true story. While it is well done and my children love the story, I was a little bit disappointed that it included only imitations of Van Gogh's paintings and not actual pictures of them. I felt that even though there is a sad element to this story, the author did an excellent job of making it suitable even for small children, and sparks their interest in learning more about his life and works. We will be using this book this year for our homeschooled kindergartner and preschooler, and I am sure that this will be a great starting point for further learning and discussions. I give this book four stars and highly recommend it.

I teach special education. My students range in age from 7 to 18 with various abilities and disabilities. They absolutely loved this book and wanted to color their own version. It was a perfect gateway leading them into not only art but compassion and inspiration. This lovely story turned into a two month unit as we explored other artists and their lives. It taught them that they had the power to make a difference!

great for little artist

I am an elementary art teacher and I use this book to introduce my students to Van Gogh, his life

and his work. The book is written really well and it pulls my students in. I especially like the way Anholt took actual photographs of Van Gogh's paintings and included them as part of the illustrations. After reading the book my students, use different mediums to draw sunflowers and everyone loves it.

Great book!

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