



# Educator Guide

# An Original Exhibition Organized by The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, ©2015

Welcome to the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature! The following pages will help you explore the David Shannon and his books in your class while offering several classroom connections.

## Who is David Shannon?

---



Internationally acclaimed picture-book creator David Shannon has always been an artist. At the age of five, he wrote and illustrated his first book. On every page were pictures of David doing things he was not supposed to do and these words: **No, David!** - the only words he knew how to spell! Many years later, when his mother sent him that book, Shannon was inspired to write and illustrate his now-classic bestseller and Caldecott Honor Book *No, David!*

In the books he writes, Shannon often uses incidents and people from his own life. His daughter made animal noises before she could talk, so Shannon wrote *Duck on a Bike*, a story with lots of quacks, moos, oinks, and woofs. His entertaining picture book about a West Highland terrier, *Good Boy, Fergus!*, features the beloved family dog, and how

can anyone with children not guess where Shannon got the idea for *Too Many Toys*?

In 1993, Shannon published *How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball*, the first book he wrote himself (as an adult!). It was a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year, and in 2011, the Blue Sky Press published it again with a colorful new cover. Since then, he has written and illustrated numerous award-winning, bestselling books, including *A Bad Case of Stripes*; *Alice the Fairy*; *The Rain Came Down*; and three more picture books featuring David: *David Gets in Trouble*; *David Goes to School*.; and *It's Christmas, David!*

Shannon once again broke new ground with a dramatic but funny "fish tale" called *Jangles: A BIG Fish Story*. Told by a father to his son, this story is drawn from Shannon's experiences as an avid fisherman and teller of tales.

Born in Washington, D.C., Shannon grew up in Spokane, Washington. He graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and then moved to New York City. His illustrations have appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *The New York Times*, *Time*, and *Rolling Stone*. David Shannon's art has graced a number of book jackets.

David Shannon now lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Heidi and their daughter, Emma. Here is what he had to say on how he became an illustrator- "I had no idea there were all these great stories out there. So, I took another one and another one, and the more children's books I did, the more I realized that was really what I'd always loved to do. When I was a kid, that's what I did. I read books, and I drew pictures of what I saw in my head. So when I read *The Hobbit*, I drew lots of hobbits and Gandalf. I realized I was drawing the same subject matter that I drew as a kid, with baseball players and pirates and knights and things like that. When I first began doing children's books, like when I did editorial work, my palette was a lot more muted and dark. It would slowly, but surely, become more colorful. And I just like the colors better. When I'm doing a book, I kind of think of it as directing a little movie. So, I try to make everything in the pictures reinforce the story in some way. And color can do an awful lot with conveying the emotion and mood and tone of the story. If you're doing a sad story, a lot of times bright colors aren't the way to go." ©Reading Rockets

This guide consists of two units, one each in art and literature using books by David Shannon. The first unit introduces students to art history and different master artist while the second unit works with the writing aspect. This lesson plan can be modified depending on the grades. The lesson plan has been written to teachers flexibility and while bringing cultural aspects to the lesson plans. Based on the demographics, this lesson plan can also be adapted to David Goes around the World. Here David can explore how people are different and yet the same all over the world, or, they may explore the different clothing or food. Educators can use this lesson plan as a guideline to tie these books into their curriculum.

Have fun with David!



## David through the Eyes of the Master Artists

**Motivation:** NCCIL artist David Shannon and Master Artists- Giuseppe Archimboldo, Leonardo da Vinci, Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Gauguin

---

### Artist Medium and Painting Selections:

- David Shannon - Acrylic Paint,
- Giuseppe Archimboldo - Summer, 1573, Oil Paint,
- Leonardo da Vinci – Mona Lisa, 1504-1509, Oil Paint on Wood,
- Paul Gauguin - Self Portrait, 1889, Oil on Wood
- Paul Klee - Senecio- Head of a Man, 1922, Gauze and Oil Paint,
- Pablo Picasso - Femme au Beret Rouge, sometime between 1937, Oil on Canvas,

### Medium for the lesson: Acrylic Paint

*Objectives:* Students will create acrylic portrait(s) of David Shannon’s character, **David**, based on the work of master artists Giuseppe Archimboldo, Leonardo da Vinci, Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Gauguin

This unit will allow teachers to incorporate these master artists using a contemporary and popular book. David Shannon made the original ‘No, David!’ book when he was just 5 years old. When he decided to revisit this book as an adult, what emerged was this timeless idea of the multiple ways moms have of saying "no." *“At first I drew David more realistically, like I draw some of my other books. And it just sat there. It just didn't have any of the charm or energy of the original. So, I went back to the original, and I tried drawing more like a five-year-old. And, all of a sudden, he just jumped off the page and started picking his nose.”* ~ David Shannon

### Extension Activity:

Following these art activities, students can create their own *David (Shannon) Goes to the Museum!* book (see included lesson plan) Are there rules in the museum? What are they? Will David follow them? What kind of paintings will David see in the museum? You know David never means to cause trouble, it just happens! Will there be an accident of sorts? Will there be an accidental Jackson Pollock painting á la David style? Do you know who Jackson Pollock is? Find more about this American artist. It’s fun to drip, drizzle and splash the paint around. You might want to try some of his action style of painting. For more information about Pollock’s his style of painting, <https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/MoMA/moma-abstract-expressionism/v/moma-painting-technique-pollock> (© 2010, MOMA)

*Materials/Supplies:* Pencils, Canvas, and Acrylic Paints

*Procedures:* Students will study the work of a master artist of their choice for inspiration, and will then paint a portrait of David Shannon’s character, David, using the style of their chosen master artist.

Depending on which master artist the student chooses, the student's resulting portrait will contain similar colors, background, and objects as the portrait created by the master artist. More information on the artists and their work is provided below.

## How to draw David

---



The trick to guided drawing is to relate what you are drawing to a shape children already know how to make. This activity can also be used as a tool for *pre-writing* skills or to further improve a child's writing skills.



- An arch is a "rainbow." An upside down arch is a "smile."
  - A pointed top can be like a "capital A without a line in it."
  - A side-arc or a half circle can be a letter C.
  - Two parallel lines can be a number 11.
1. Draw a circle for the head, big enough for the eyes, nose, and mouth.
  2. Make a letter C on each side of the head for ears.
  3. Draw two dots for the nostrils. Then put a triangle around it.
  4. Draw two dots for the eyes. Make two lines going in for his eyebrows. Draw little lines on his head for hair. Make a big smile with a lid on it for the mouth. Add triangle teeth.
  5. Make a number 11 for the neck.
  6. Draw a circle tummy/ oval for the body. Draw two lines going down for each leg. Put a "lid" on each pair of lines for the bottom of his pants.
  7. Draw circle shoes. Put a number eight on the shoes for shoe laces. Make a line above the shoes for the socks.
  8. Draw two lines going out for each arm. Put a lid on them. Make two circle hands. Put two lines on the arms for the sleeves of his striped shirt.
  9. Make two lines very close together on his tummy for the belt. Make a number 11 in the middle for the buckle. Now color in the belt with your black marker. Don't color in the number 11. That's the buckle.

10. Make some lines on the shirt for the stripes. Don't make more than 3-4 lines.

## Giuseppe Arcimboldo

---



Giuseppe Arcimboldo was born in 1527 in Italy and is best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely of objects such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish, and books. His representations of these objects on the canvas are arranged in such a way that the whole collection forms a recognizable likeness of the portrait subject.

Arcimboldo began his career in the glass workshops of Milan Cathedral and is known to have designed frescoes and stained-glass windows showing scenes from the lives of various saints. His portraits were greatly admired by his contemporaries and remain a source of fascination. When the Swedish army invaded Prague in 1648, many of Arcimboldo's paintings were stolen from the collection of Rudolf II. He was forgotten for over 400 years before his work was rediscovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Salvador Dali.

In 1562, Arcimboldo went to Vienna as the official portraitist of the Imperial Court, and a year later painted the first versions of his "Four Seasons". These portraits are made up of objects which represent those seasons. The portrait titled "Winter" is a head made from an old tree with two lemons as a clasp for the cloak, but it is just the start of Arcimboldo's skill and imagination. Blossoming flowers and green plants have been used to create this image of "Spring". "Summer" made of the harvest of fruit, vegetables and corn. The portrait of "Autumn" is made with potatoes, grapes and other fruits of fall.

### **Art Piece: Summer, 1573**

**Medium:** Oil on Canvas

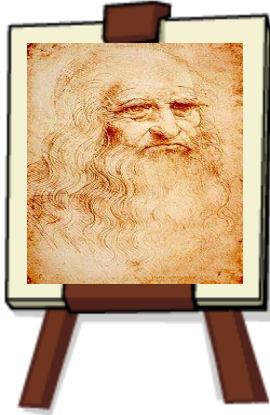
**Location:** Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

**Description:** This is the second version of the portrait. The first was completed in 1563. One of the four in Arcimboldo's series of Four Seasons, the portrait of "Summer" is made of the harvest fruit, vegetables and corn.



## Leonardo da Vinci

---



Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452. He was an Italian scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, painter, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. Born as the son of a notary and a peasant girl in the region of Florence, Leonardo was educated in the studio of the renowned Florentine painter, Verrocchio. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and perhaps the most diversely talented person ever to have lived.

Two of his works, the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, occupy unique positions as the most famous and reproduced. It is said that only 15 of his paintings have survived and these few works -- together with his notebooks, which contain drawings, scientific diagrams, and his thoughts on the nature of painting -- contribute immensely to educate us even today.

As an engineer, Leonardo's ideas were vastly ahead of his time. He conceptualized a helicopter, a tank, concentrated solar power, a calculator, and several such inventions. Relatively few of his designs were constructed or were even feasible during his lifetime. As a scientist, he greatly advanced the state of knowledge in the fields of anatomy, civil engineering, optics, and hydrodynamics.

**Art Piece:** *Mona Lisa or La Gioconda* (1503–1505/1507)

**Medium:** Oil on Poplar Panel

**Location:** Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

**Description:** Mona Lisa (also known as La Gioconda) is a 16th century portrait painted during the Italian Renaissance. The work is owned by the French government and hangs in the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France, with the title *Portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo*.



## Paul Gauguin



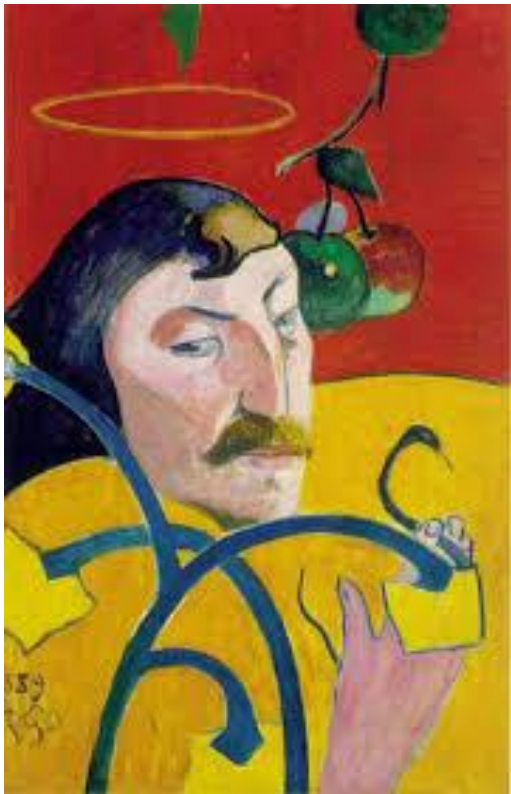
Eugène Henri Paul Gauguin was born in Paris, France in 1848. Gauguin was a leading Post-Impressionist painter. In 1851, the family left Paris for Peru, and this later influenced Gauguin's art. Gauguin had been interested in art since his childhood, and in his free time he painted. Gauguin also frequently visited galleries and purchased work by emerging artists. He was disillusioned by the unacceptance of his work, but was eventually recognized soon after his death. He experimented with bold colors and was also an influential exponent of wood engraving and woodcuts as art forms. Gauguin paintings are rarely offered for sale and when they do, their prices are as high as \$39.2 million.

**Art Piece:** *Self portrait, 1889*

**Medium:** Oil on Wood

**Location:** National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

**Description:** Gauguin painted many self-portraits, but few are as enigmatic as this one. It was part of the decoration that Gauguin and his colleague Meyer de Haan created for the dining room of the inn where they were staying in Le Pouldu. At the time, Gauguin's likeness was described by friends as an "unkind character sketch"—a caricature. Today, it is the subject of intense analysis.





## Paul Klee



Paul Klee was a modern art master. Born on December 18, 1879, this Swiss painter was influenced by many different art styles in his work. He started young in both art and music. At age seven, he started playing the violin, and at age eight, he was given a box of chalk by his grandmother and was encouraged to draw frequently. Klee could have succeeded at either art or music as an adult. He studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

Klee worked with many different types of media—oil paint, watercolor, ink, and more. He often combined them into one work. His art frequently refers to poetry, music, dreams, and sometimes even includes words or musical notation. The later works are distinguished by spidery symbols which he famously described as, "A line is a dot going for a walk". Klee's initial pen-and-ink drawings were transformed after he visited Tunisia and became enchanted with the color and light he found there.

### Art Piece: *Senecio (Head of a man)*, 1922

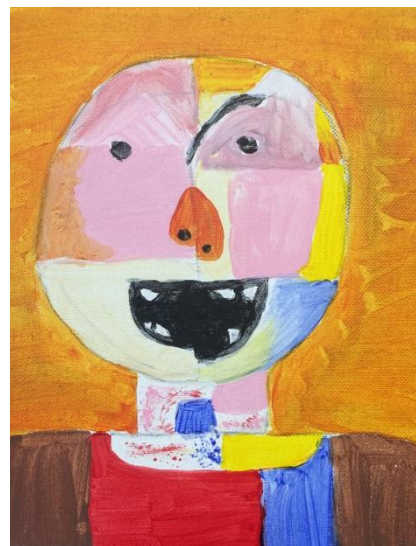
**Medium:** Oil on gauze

**Location:** Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland

**Description:** Throughout his career, Paul Klee used color in a variety of unique and diverse ways. Klee liked children and children's art. He liked painting faces using geometric shapes. The same year he painted *Senecio*, he built a puppet theatre with many characters for his son. *Senecio* means "old man" in French, and in Latin it is a name of a poisonous flower with white hair-like fibers.



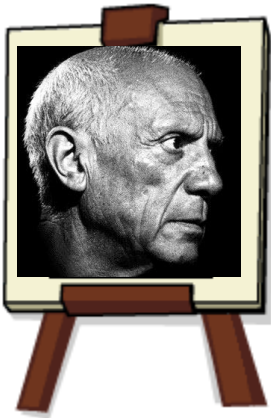
*Senecio (Head of a man)*, 1922



David's *Senecio*

## Pablo Picasso

---



Pablo Ruiz y Picasso, also known as Pablo Picasso was born on October 25, 1881. The Spanish painter was also a sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, stage designer, poet and playwright who spent most of his adult life in France. As one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century, he is known for co-founding the Cubist movement.

**Art Piece:** Femme au Beret Rouge, between 1937

**Medium:** Oil on Canvas

**Location:** Unknown

**Description:** Not much is known about this painting.



Femme au Beret Rouge, between 1930-40



David's Femme au Beret Rouge

## David Goes to the Museum: Write like David Shannon

---

### Objective

#### Students will:

1. Read various books by David Shannon.
2. Compare three of Shannon's books for similarities.
3. List the museum setting for the story *David Goes to the Museum*.
4. Integrate Shannon's pattern of writing.
5. Formulate their own story using an author's style.

This unit will connect and satisfy the following **subject** areas and **skill** sets: Family Life, Literature, Compare and Contrast, Literature Appreciation, Listening Comprehension, Narrative Writing, and Child Development and Behavior.

- Student will begin the unit by exploring David Shannon's books.
  - Depending on the grade, this activity can be undertaken as a group or individually by the students.
  - For advanced grades, students can learn about storyline and a storyboard for their book. Explain all illustrators and authors will use this to sketch the outline of their story. A story has a beginning, middle and an end. Artists also often make a dummy before completing the finished project for a clear understanding and to check for errors.
  - The setting for this book is **Museum**. Ask the students if they have been to any museum? Was it a field trip or they did they go with their families. What did they see there? Were there any Museum rules that they had to follow?
  - Have the students compare the beginning of all the 'David' books. For example: The first page of *David Goes to School*, the beginning of the story reads, "*David's teacher always said, 'No, David!'*" Ask the students how their story might begin with the new setting and who will always say, "*No, (Student's name)!*" Perhaps the beginning of your story then is, "*The guard at the museum always said, 'No, (Student's Name).'*"?
  - What happens when David goes to the museum? Will he imagine himself in the portraits he sees in the museum? Will he accidentally bump against a paint cart parked in the gallery and spill paint all over a canvas? Will this accident turn into a happy one, where people think he just created fine art?
  - Ask the students to think about what kind of museum rules they might use in their book.
1. *Don't run! Always walk- Boys behave like the perfect gentleman. Girls walk like ladies. (Does David decide to skip or be an airplane?)*

2. *Don't touch the paintings! Always stand at an arm's length to enjoy them.*
3. *Use inside voices! Don't scream! (Could David be talking loudly in the gallery?)*
4. *"Don't fight" and "Keep your hands to yourself" (Surely, David is not pushing the girls or pulling on their pigtails!)*

- Have students compare the last pages of the 'David' books. David always has a resolution or a happy ending. Ask children how they think their book might end. Could David be holding his own portrait he made in the art studio at the end of the tour? Will the guard excuse his accident and ask him to go home?
- Have children note what their feeling might be if they were David.
- Now the students may work on their story boards for the illustrations in the book. Have the children relook at the 'David' books. Look at the colors in the books. David loves using bright warm colors.
- Putting it altogether is the final step!

Students complete their illustrations add their story, and proudly display their copies of ***David Goes to the Museum.***

# Finding Fergus

---



Hi! I am *Fergus*, a West Highland Terrier and a member of David Shannon's family for 19 years. David wrote a book about me and I also appear in most of his books. Sometimes, I am hidden and sometimes, you can find me easily.

Do you want to go on a hunt--- ***Finding Fergus*** hunt? You have to find me using the clues below. If you cannot find me, find a museum staff member and they will help you.

Before we begin, remember I am in most of the books, not necessarily in the pictures on the wall!

- I have heard more times than I can count, "No, David!" this time I watched him by the fire hydrant running down the street!
- David loves to draw and when he goes to school, it's no different.
- David is always getting into trouble and now he is also eating my food!
- It's now almost Christmas and I am still by the fire hydrant watching David run down the street, only this time with his mittens, and then oh wait.... What's he writing in the snow?

- It was a long, long ago that two children a brother and sister, tried to find someone to help them save a shark.
- My favorite thing when the rain comes down? Wear my red raincoat, go for a walk and hope there is no one blocking the traffic down the street.
- Emma loves reading to us.
- The farm animals want to ride a bicycle, the red one. Do you know what's special about it?
- One can never have too many toys, and Spencer loves to get us all in a parade.
- Have you seen Robot Zot battle? I was there and saw it all, Zot victorious and the disappearance of Earth's most fearsome Commander General.
- Camilla had a case of bad stripes. You should have seen the media frenzy. Nothing would cure her until an old lady came with a bag of lima beans. All Camilla wanted was to eat her lima beans! All was right when she had some.
- I am sure you have seen many a lure in the tackle box, but never as handsome as this!
- Jeremy Jacob became of the pirates, and drew a map so they could find the hidden treasure when they needed it.
- Jeremy Jacob's map will surely lead them to the treasure, or will it? When the pirate crew turns up at Jeremy Jacob's house and accidently wakes his baby sister, she howls louder than a storm on the high seas. Nobody's digging up any treasure until Bonney Anne quits her caterwauling and I get to watch it all!
- Who likes bugs? No one does. You can get them in your hair from anywhere, so don't point your fingers at me?