

Starry Nights at CIS

Think Van Gogh's work is just for adults? Vincent might never have imagined his work in the hands of children, but Canton Intermediate School's 4th graders have just finished a poetry and art unit based on Vincent van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night*.

The unit began when students first discussed Van Gogh and his painting, *Starry Night*, [see Van Gogh's picture right]. Students learned about the life and work of Van Gogh and carefully analyzed how he used line, color, texture, and shape. Students discussed critical questions about the piece, such as describing the textures within the painting, identifying the shapes which stand out and why they do, and defining the overall mood of the painting.



The fourth grade classroom teachers then worked with the students as they wrote several drafts of a free verse poem based on the painting, using both their class discussion and the visual painting as inspiration.

The following poems are written by our fourth graders.

"Starry Night"

By Cole M.

The wind blows like a river flows
The moon shines as a fire in the sky

It shines bright
casting an eerie glow

The tree ruffles while the wind whistles

What's happening"
Why an eclipse?
Who's in the village?

What's protecting the mountains that dip?

This place is calm
but
mysterious
mysterious
mysterious.





"Starry Night"

By Drew B.

The whistling wind is a roaring lion chasing
after its

Prey

Silver shining stars above the peaceful
city down

Below

The eclipse is especially bright.

The warm, glowing city is like a duller star
But the eclipse is especially bright.

The ribbon of yellow and silver is an
elephant being

Launched out of circus tent,

But even though it's really bright

The eclipse is especially bright.



The Starry Night

By Grace B.

The wind is whistling

It brushes the stars

The wind flies away

The stars are shimmering

They light up the whole world

As a lamp lights a room

The moon is king of the sky

Its proud look makes the stars even

brighter

The town below the kingdom

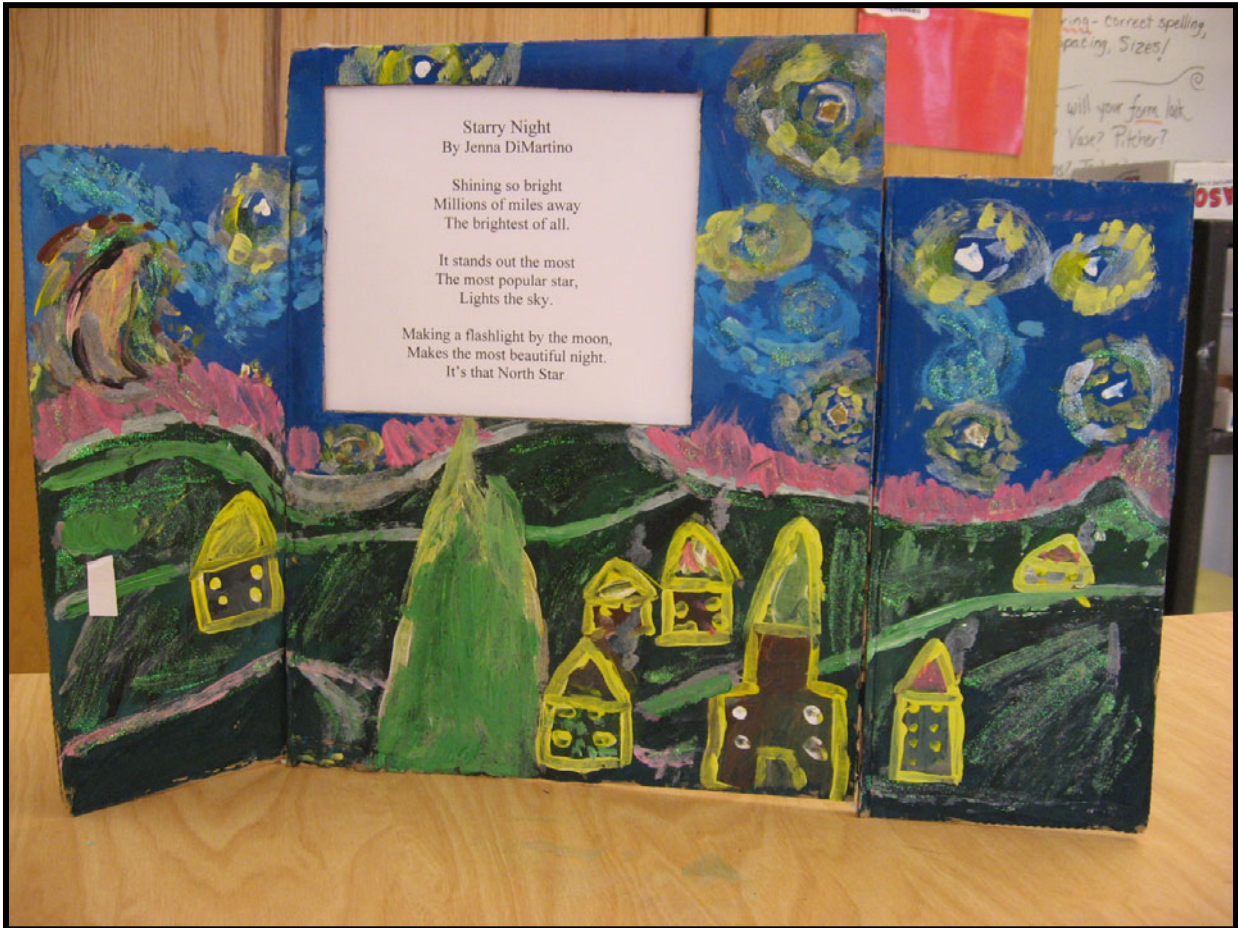
Looks up to the sky and smiles

The smiles that make the wind whistle,

The stars shimmer, and the moon proud.



To complete the unit, students then created Van Gogh-style paintings on cardboard which served as a frame for their poetry. These scenes were painted using tempera paint and represented the students' own versions of the night sky. Glitter paint and foil paper were added as an extra sparkle to the work! The pictures below show the students at work in the classroom and the finished frames for their poetry.



Starry Night
By Katahdin W.

Stars glimmer in the night
Wind howling in the night
Tree blowing back and fourth
Moon and sun holding hands

In the starry night
Little town down below not knowing
What is high in the
Starry night

The Starry Night
By Elisabeth M.

Colors
Dark and light
Black, blue, yellow

The village stands beneath
Wondering
What the sky
Will
Produce
Tonight

The sky replying
With all my beautiful colors
I will make an eclipse

Calm, peaceful, quiet, nice
These are the traits of the village
Seems like Canton from the view of a
bird

We are lucky
Lucky to have Van Gogh luck to have a
village and everybody else

Vincent Van Gogh painter of all time
only
Sold
One painting in his life...



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Starry Night
By Juliana D.

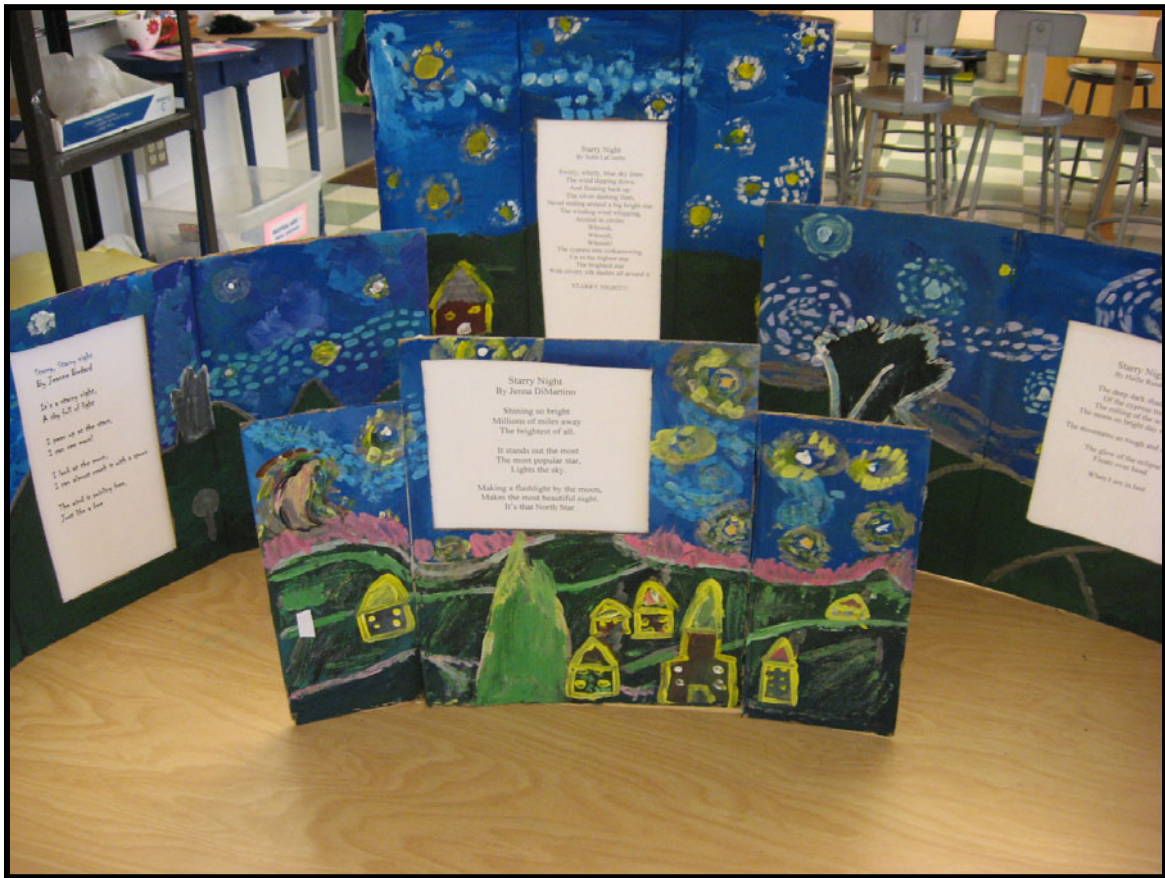
Wind howling
Owls hooting
This is the starry night
Sparkling stars shining
Eclipse is beautiful
Village is quiet
This is the starry night
Huge twined trees
Crickets chirping
This is the starry night
Building quiet
The only sound you hear
Is a famous artists paintbrush
Swishing and swirling across a paper



"Starry Night"
By Evan M

Silver stars are glistening in the dark navy
Mysterious night,
The wind howls
At the combination of
The sun, moon, and stars that light up the night like
Flashlights in
A dark room.
A tree
Towers over me, Mount-Everest-high
It cuts the night like a knife
through butter.
I stand there with my dad in awe, I look at him
And say...

What a starry night!!



"Starry Night"
By Leo R.

The eclipse showing the sun and moon

The white surrounds a star,
Cypress tree covering up the light,

With a beautiful sight of Starry Night
That's standing right in front of me

Sitting,
Like a window's sight.