

# Y3/4 – Assembly Plan 2

## How can artists tell stories without using words?

### Preparation:

- Display several artworks or images that tell a story visually (e.g. cave paintings, comic strips, murals, stained glass windows, famous paintings like Guernica or The Bayeux Tapestry).
- Bring in a wordless picture book (e.g. Journey by Aaron Becker or The Arrival by Shaun Tan).
- Optional: display a child's drawing that has a story behind it.

1	<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Question (2 mins)</b> Introduce the <i>Big Question</i>: <b>“How can artists tell stories without using words?”</b> Ask: Can we tell a story without talking or writing?</p>
2	<p><b>2. Wordless Story (3 mins)</b> Show 3–4 pages from a wordless picture book or a comic panel without speech bubbles. Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's happening here?</li><li>• What do you think will happen next?</li></ul>
3	<p><b>3. A Look at Cave Art (3 mins)</b> Briefly introduce cave paintings from thousands of years ago. Explain: Before writing, people told stories by painting on walls! Ask: What kind of stories do you think they told?</p>

<b>4</b>	<p><b>4. Artists Who Use Symbols (4 mins)</b>  Show artworks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keith Haring</b> (simple figures and movement)</li> <li>• <b>Frida Kahlo</b> (self-portraits with powerful symbols)</li> <li>• <b>Banksy</b> (graffiti that tells a message)</li> </ul> <p>Ask: What do you think each artist is saying?</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>5. Children as Visual Storytellers (3 mins)</b>  Share a drawing made by a child (real or example) and explain the story behind it.  Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever drawn a picture that had a story behind it?</li> <li>• What did you want people to feel when they saw it?</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>6. Key Message (2 mins)</b>  Art is a powerful way to tell stories — across time, cultures, and languages. Your drawings, paintings, and designs can say something important.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>7. Reflection (2 mins)</b>  Close your eyes. Think of a memory, a dream, or a message you want to share. How would you turn it into a picture?  Open your eyes. You don't need words to speak through art.</p>

**Music**

“Pictures at an Exhibition” by Mussorgsky (instrumental – inspires visual imagination)

Or

“Express Yourself” by Labrinth – about being confident and creative

**Cross-Curricular Links:**

**Art:** Exploring visual language, symbolism, and composition

**English:** Storytelling, sequencing, imagination

**History:** Understanding historical sources like cave art

**PSHE:** Expressing emotions, building confidence