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# Susan's Missing Painting



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theme</li><li>• Character, Setting, Plot</li><li>• Graphic Organizers</li></ul>

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1.4.2



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by Lana Rios  
Illustrated by Jeff Hopkins





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Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York  
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When Susan was one year old, her grandma gave her a present. It was a pack of crayons. Susan loved her crayons. She loved them so much that she ate the red one, the blue one, and part of the yellow one.



Susan got her next pack of crayons when she was three years old. This time she knew what to do with all the colors. This time she began to draw.

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ISBN: 0-328-13201-2

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When Susan was seven, she was making art all the time. She painted before breakfast. She even drew at the dinner table.

Sometimes Susan drew things that she saw. Sometimes she used her imagination and made up things.

Her grandma said, "You will be a great artist one day."



Susan passed a special place every day on her way to school. This place had art shows. Susan always stopped to stare at the paintings.

Some paintings made her feel happy. Some paintings made her feel sad. And some made her want to think about things.

"Hurry up!" her mother would say. Susan was late for school a lot.







One day Susan's teacher, Ms. Ito, said, "I have a surprise. We are going to the art museum."

At the museum, some of the children poked each other. Some tried to run around. Those children got in trouble and had to sit down.

"Please, everybody," said Ms. Ito. "Find a picture you really like. Then look at it for a while."



Susan looked at all the paintings in the room. Then she found the one she liked the best. It was a painting of a circus.





At first it looked like most paintings. Then Susan stood close to it. She stared at the picture.

"It is made out of tiny dots!" she said.

"That painting is by a man called Georges Seurat" said Ms. Ito. "He used tiny spots of color to make his picture."

"It is so beautiful! And it looks fun," said Susan. "I want to create a painting like that."



The next day was Saturday.

"I will be very busy today," Susan told her parents. "I am going to paint with dots."

"Oh my," said Susan's mother. She went into the other room and left Susan alone to work.

Susan took out her pencils and paints. She took out her brushes. She set up her easel. She looked at the easel for a long time.







Susan thought about the picture of the circus. Then she thought about how the children were running around in the museum. She decided it would be fun to make a picture of that.

She drew an outline of what she wanted to paint. She dipped a small brush into some paint. She made a dot on the paper.

Susan used many colors and made many dots.



Nobody bothered Susan while she painted. She painted for a very long time. At last she was done.

"Come and see my picture," she called to her parents.

"It is wonderful," said her mother.  
"It is amazing," said her father.





Susan looked everywhere for her painting.

She looked in her closet. She looked under her bed. She even looked in with the dirty clothes.

"Mom!" cried Susan. "Where is my painting? I looked all over and I can't find it anywhere."

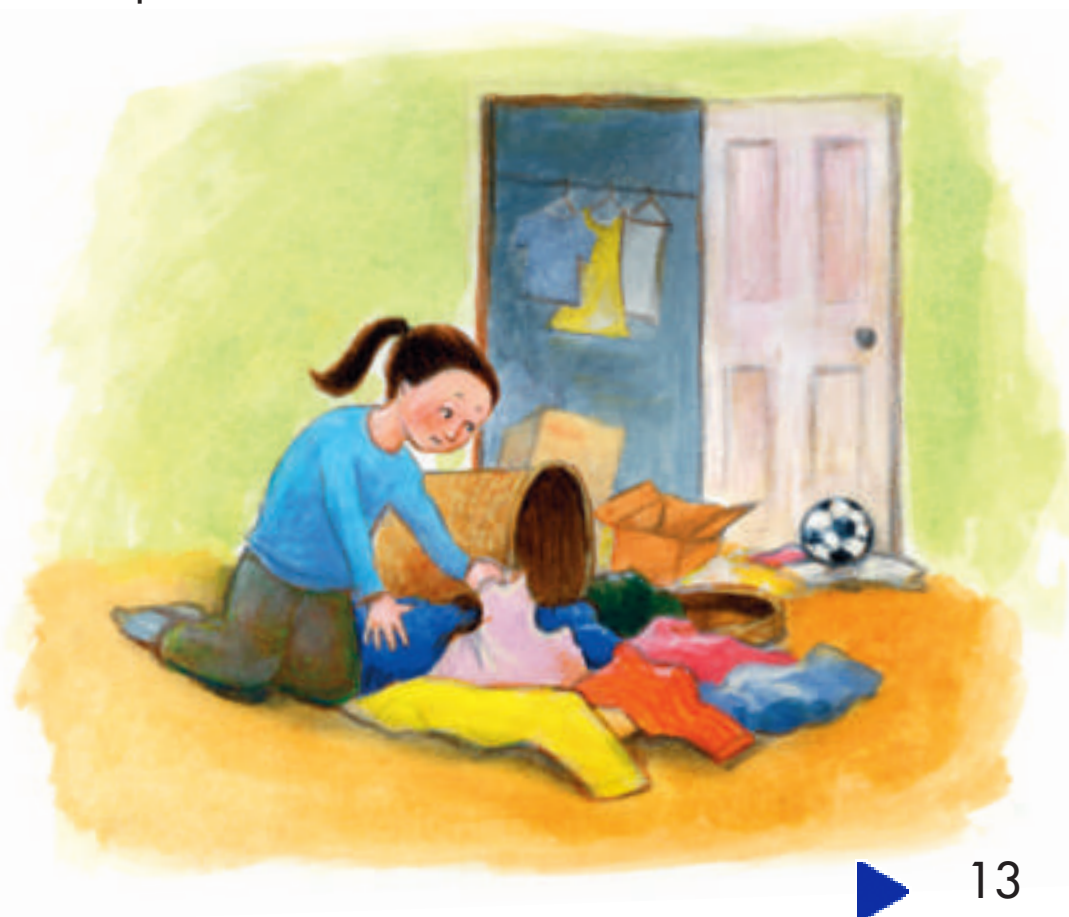
"Oh," said her mom. "Don't worry about the picture. I'm sure it will turn up."



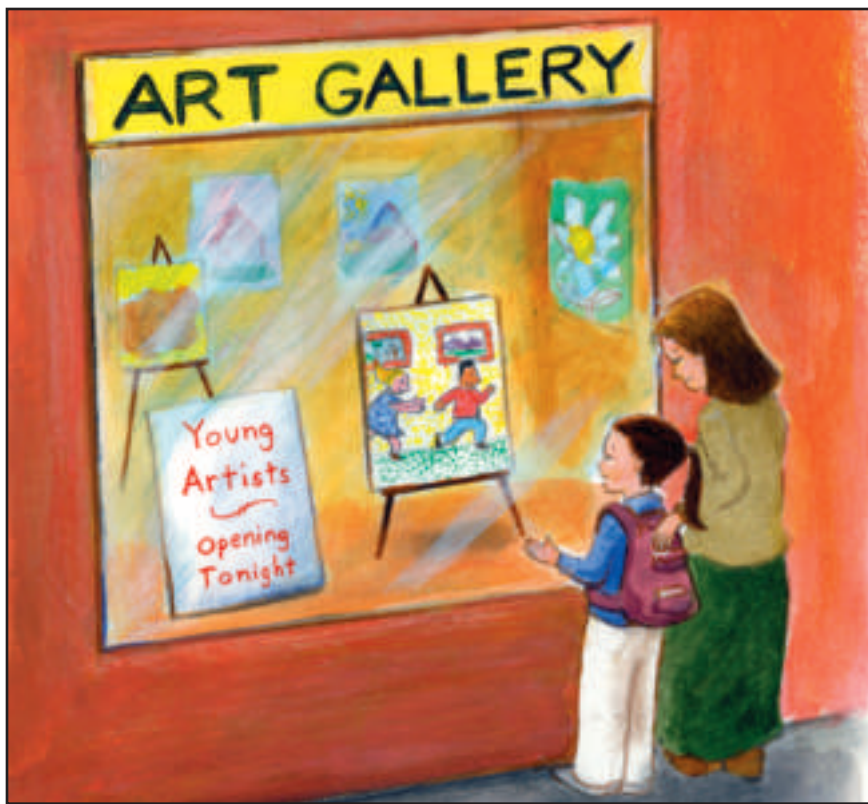
The next week Susan did not have school. She went to visit her grandma and grandpa.

Before she went home, her grandpa said, "Soon it will be Grandma's birthday. You know that she loves your pictures. Maybe you can make her a painting."

Susan thought that was a great idea. She decided to give Grandma her dot painting. But when she got home, she could not find her picture.







That night Susan went to a party at the art show. Her whole family came, even her grandparents.

"I always knew you would be a great artist," said her grandma.

A lot of people looked at Susan's painting.

A lady came up to Susan. "Can I buy your picture?" she asked.

"I'm sorry," said Susan. "I am giving it to my grandma."



Susan walked to school the next day. She felt sad about her missing painting. She stopped in front of the place that always had the art shows.

Susan looked in the window. Then she looked again. Susan smiled. She could not believe it! There was her painting. It was next to a sign that said, "Young Artists—Opening Tonight."

"I wanted to surprise you," said her mother.





# Georges Seurat

Read Together

Georges Seurat was born in Paris, France, in 1859. He began drawing when he was a teenager. He went to art school when he was nineteen years old.

Seurat painted many things that people could see in daily life. He painted people at the beach. He painted vases and lighthouses. He also painted things that were special events, like circuses.

At that time, artists were trying to see what would happen if they used paint and paintbrushes in different ways. Seurat wanted to show light in many ways in a picture. He used tiny brush strokes of pure color. These dots are too small to see when you look at the whole picture. You can only see them when you look closely at part of the picture. These dots are what give the pictures their special feeling.



# Think and Share

Read Together

1. What is the big idea of this story?
2. Think about what happened in the story. Copy the chart on your paper. Fill in what happened.

Title: Susan's Missing Painting

1. Susan goes to the museum.



2.



3.



4.

3. The story says Susan used her imagination to decide what to paint. What do you think this means?
4. How do you think Susan felt when she saw her painting at the art show? How would you have felt if you were Susan?

