



Ars Moriendi: The Art of Death and Dying

Activities: Grades K-2

1. An emotion is a feeling, like happy, sad, hopeful, or angry. Thinking about death can make people feel a lot of different emotions. Everyone reacts to the idea of death in their own way, and that's okay! There are many different ways to show our emotions. One way is through art. Making art or looking at art can help us think through our feelings and learn how to show them in healthy ways. As you look through this exhibition, try to decide which emotions each artist is trying to show. What emotions do you feel when you look at each artwork?

ACTIVITY:

- Think of an emotion and choose at least three colors that you would use to represent it. What colors do you think of when you feel happy? What about scared? What about sadness? Using materials you have at home, make an artwork with the colors that show that emotion.

If you'd like to post your art projects on social media, make sure to tag the Museum!

Instagram: @springvillemuseum

Facebook: Springville Museum of Art

2. Find the artwork *Texting the Dead* by Brian Christensen. This artwork includes cell phones with messages on them, messages that someone has written to a person that they love. Think of someone you love - it could be someone in your family, or maybe one of your friends. It could be someone who is alive or someone who has passed away. If you were to write them a message, what would you tell them?

ACTIVITY:

- Has one of your friends or family members ever been sad about something? What can you do to make them feel better? Write down three things you can do to help someone you love to feel better when they are sad.

Utah State Core Standards:

- a. **Grade 2 Fine Arts:**
Standard 2.V.R.2: Identify the mood suggested by a work of art and describe relevant subject matter and characteristics of form.
- b. **Grade 1 Fine Arts**
Standard 1.V.CR.1: Engage collaboratively in exploration and imaginative play with art materials, and use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.
- c. **Grade 2 Social Studies**
Standard 2.MEH.2: Describe ways to respond to uncomfortable situations or emotions.
- d. **Grade K-2 English Language Arts**
Writing Standard 8: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.



Additional Resources:

- Kids' Books With Themes of Grief, Loss, and Emotion:
 - *Always and Forever* by Alan Durant
 - *The Memory String* by Eve Bunting
 - *Always By My Side* by Susan Kerner
 - *Rudi's Pond* by Eve Bunting
 - *Missing Mommy* by Rebecca Cobb
 - *Chester Raccoon and the Acorn Full of Memories* by Audrey Penn
 - *Rainbow Reach Workbook Series* by Susan Weaver

- Kids' Movies with Themes of Grief, Loss, and Emotion:
 - Onward (2020)
 - Inside Out (2015)
 - Big Hero 6 (2014)
 - The Book of Life (2014)
 - Hugo (2011)
 - The Bridge to Terabithia (2007)

- Links:
 - <https://www.ecmhc.org/ideas/emotions.html>
 - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/peaceful-parents-happy-kids/201801/easy-ways-teach-kids-about-emotions-in-daily-life>
 - https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/helping_children_learn_about_emotions