

H

IS FOR HOWLING

VOICE AGENCY IDENTITY HISTORIES

Art can be a way to learn, it can be a way to have fun and it can be a space to appreciate beauty, but it can also be very BORING. There is nothing wrong with finding an artwork or art gallery boring because we all have different interests, which galleries don't always make space for. Sometimes an artwork makes me so bored I could fall asleep, but lots of artworks by black British artists make me feel excited to learn about my own history – it's different strokes for different folks.

JACOB V. JOYCE

Note: This is an official document – permission to find artworks boring! This activity plays with the expectations we bring with us when we visit a gallery – how we are expected to behave, how we are expected to react. Find ways to shift the balance between support, experimentation and the power of expressing your own point of view.

ACTIVITY DEvised BY
ARTIST JACOB V. JOYCE
in collaboration with Schools and
Teachers Tate London Learning

BRING ART INTO YOUR CLASSROOM
You can also access the collection
artworks from tate.org.uk

Get into groups of ten. Choose a conductor who will guide the group through the **ways to wow** by saying the words below out loud.

Find the most BORING artwork in the gallery. Stand around the work together and poke fun at it by pretending to find it interesting.

Start saying 'wow' to each other.

*At first let the wows be **small little sarcastic wows** under your breath.*

*Slowly let the wows **become louder**.*

Play with the pitch by wowing in a **deep low voice** and then in a **high squeaky voice**.

*How about some **snooty wows**, some **yawning wows**? Try to wow in a few **different voices**.*

Make your eyes really wide, put your hands on your cheeks and do a long extended 'Wow', really stretching out the 'ooooo' sound.

WoOOOooOOOow!

*Keep wowing together, with each 'wow' becoming **louder than the last**.*

Keep the air around you filled with sound and hear the way your voices join together.

Pretend the artwork is the most exciting thing you have ever seen and release one last epic 'WOOooooOOooW'.

Wow as if you're becoming a pack of howling wolves.

WoowWooWoooooOOoooooow!!!!!!

It is OK to be loud.

Now choose someone else to read out these questions and answer them together.

What did it feel like to exaggerate your opinion into a performance?

Did making fun of the artwork change it in any way?

What did it mean to howl together in the gallery?

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