

Exploring and Responding

Lesson 1:

Intended year level: Year 4

VELS standards: Students comment using specific arts elements, principles and/or conventions, skills, techniques and processes. They identify and describe key features of arts works and use arts language to describe and discuss the communication of ideas, feelings and purpose other people's arts works.

Resources: Pencils, paper and a interactive whiteboard to enlarge artwork on.

Activity: The teacher prepares for the lesson by setting up the classroom so it represents an art gallery, where Alexander Calder's work is displayed on cardboard. The teacher invites the students to walk around the 'gallery' and view the artworks taking notes on their thoughts and feelings. Once the students have been given time to view and respond to the artwork, the teacher brings the students back together to discuss each individually. The teacher will display each art work enlarged on the interactive whiteboard.

Prompting questions:

What did you think about this sculpture?

How did it make you feel?

What materials do you think Alexander Calder used?

What did you like/dislike about the sculpture? Why?

What do you think Alexander Calder used to make this?

Was Calder concerned with formal qualities for example; colour, line, texture, composition?

What kind of art techniques could Calder have used?

Do you think there is a story or meaning behind the artwork? What do you think it might be?

Activity: Students gain an understanding of what questions they need to ask themselves when analysing an artwork. The students will engage in conversations where they develop their art language. They will do this by sitting in groups at tables and having a scribe who records their group's conversation about why or perhaps why they did not like/respond to the artwork. Students then create one statement for each artwork explaining how they felt, responded or analysed Alexander Calder's sculptures.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on their ability to identify and describe key features of arts works and use arts language to describe and discuss the communication of ideas, feelings and purpose in Alexander Calder's work. This assessment will be done through anecdotal notes, direct observation and the student's response statements.