

Roy Lichtenstein, *Ohhh... Alright...*, 1964
Pop Art – painting



Key Facts:

Artist: Roy Lichtenstein, 1923-1997

Art period/style: Pop Art, 1950s-1970s in England and America

Key characteristics of that period: Bright and bold colors, flat imagery influenced by comic books, advertisements, mundane mass-produced items, and imagery from popular culture and mass culture.

Techniques: Oil paint on canvas with primary colors, dots and stripes, black outlines, and flat areas of color. He used stencils with a dot pattern to paint the dots.

Some Background: Roy Lichtenstein's artwork was based on comic strips, advertisements, and even bubblegum wrappers. He often included words and talk balloons in his paintings with words such as "Wham, Boom, and Zap!" He created very large paintings that were billboard sized canvases. His paintings were created with small dots of color.

The Five Core Habits:

Practice the *Five Core Habits of Grammar* with art - NAMES (found on pgs. 18-19 in the Foundation Guide). Part of teaching is learning to ask a student good questions. This is a great activity for looking at art! Plus, you get to sneak in a little art history and technique along with.

5 CORE HABITS



NAMING

1. What do you call this?
2. Where does this name come from?
3. Are there any other names for this?



ATTENDING

1. What are the parts of this?
2. Where do you usually see this?
3. What makes this special?



MEMORIZING

1. What would help you memorize this? An acronym, a song, a chant, a picture, etc.
2. What did you already know about this?



EXPRESSING

1. Could you draw a picture of this or write a song about it? Could you act it out?
2. How does this make you feel?



STORYTELLING

1. Can you tell me a story about this?
2. Can I tell you a story about this?

N names (name things specifically)

A attending (look and listen carefully. Also- taste, smell, touch. Compare things.)

M memorizing (soak up facts and ideas. Memorize facts and relations of things to recall, connect, and expand new ideas to older ones from past memorizations.)

E expressing (express ideas creatively- reciting, drawing, singing, dancing)

S storytelling (hear and tell stories)

This helps us grasp the basic elements, vocabulary, and rules of any subject, and helps us progress more quickly toward comprehension and creativity in future studies.

Using the image on the first page, go through these questions:

N – Names:

- Name the artist, era/art style, and technique
- What can you find? Name the things you see
- Who is the woman? What is she doing?
- What do you see?
- What colors do you see?
- What is she saying?

A – Attending

- What do the people in the painting see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel/touch?
- What emotions might the people be feeling?
- Does the image give you any emotions?
- How is color used?
- What is happening in the painting?

Attending to details – here is a close-up. What else do you notice now? Can you see his technique?



M – Memorize

Memorize the artist, time period, and facts about the artwork/technique.

E – Express

Express your thoughts and ideas about the art.

You can also express by trying the technique on your own.

Have your students create their own Pop Art image with dots.

You can do this with markers or Q-tips and paint.

They should mainly use the primary colors (red, blue, yellow) and black.

Two options:

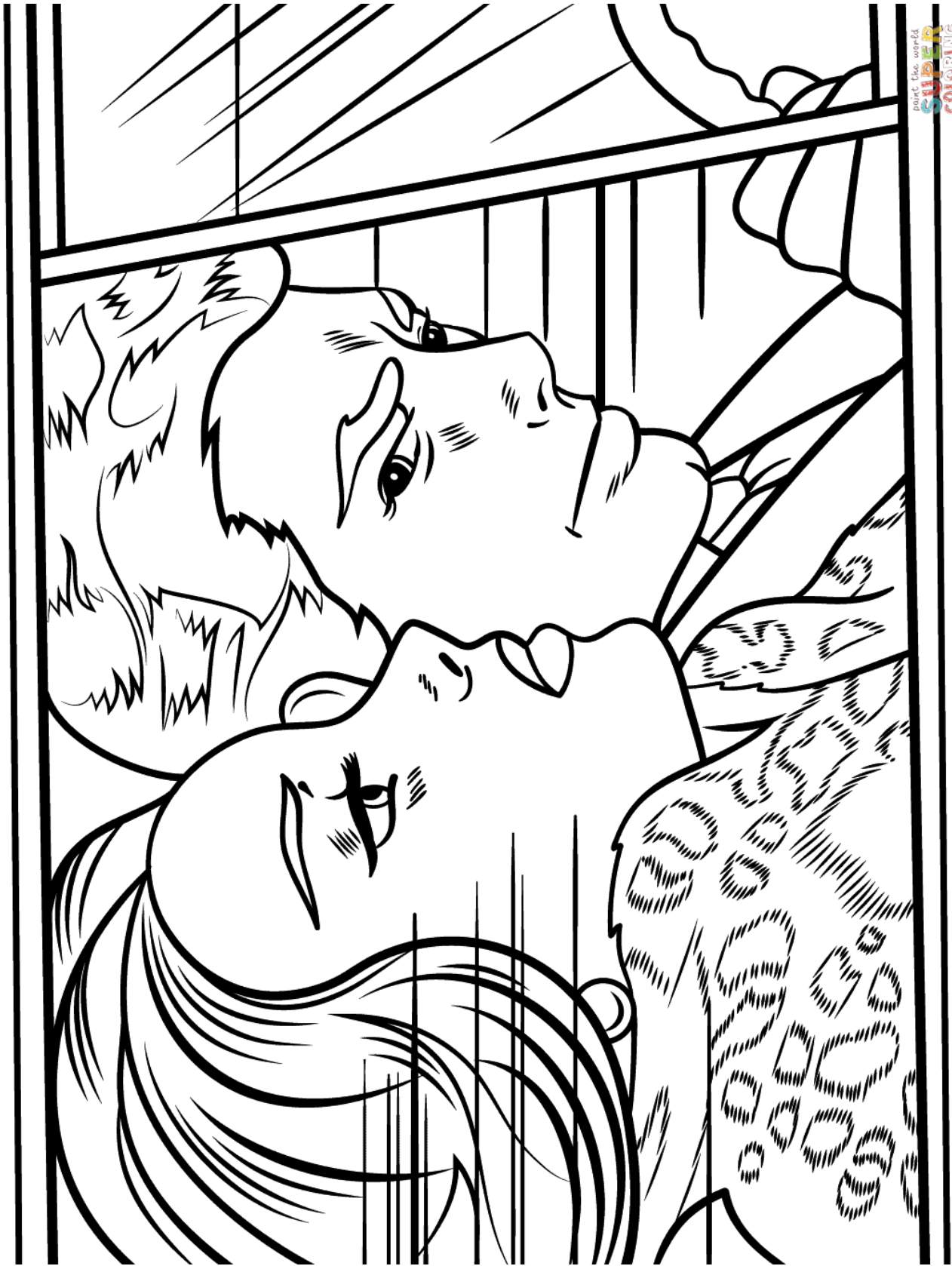
#1: Print off one of the following pages and have them add dots to it.



Girl with Hair Ribbon, 1965
Roy Lichtenstein







#2: Create your own Pop Art image and add the dots

After looking at the paintings by Lichtenstein, have the students create their own image. They could draw a portrait or one of his words such as BAM, POW, or WHAM. After they draw their image, have them go over all of the lines with a black marker. Then they can add the dots with markers or paint and a Q-tip. Again, be sure to focus on using primary colors.



On the left, bubble wrap was used to create the dot pattern. Simply add paint to the bubble wrap and press it onto the paper. On the right: Q-tips are used to apply paint and make the dots.

More examples of his work:





Masterpiece, 1962 (in 2017 the painting sold for \$165 million)

S – Story telling

Tell the story about this work of art.

Refer to image on first page

Pop art began in the 1950s in England. Pop Art uses universal images from pop culture and mass-produced objects (such as movie posters, billboards, magazine and newspaper photos, comic books, advertisements, packaging...). Pop art challenges commonplace conceptions about the meaning of art. It depicts the mundane, the commonplace, the boring. One of the philosophies of Pop Art is that the imagery should be presented objectively, without the personal signature of the artist.

Roy Lichtenstein's painting *Ohhh... Alright...* is a great example of his comic-inspired paintings from the 1960s. Paintings such as this often show a woman in distress. Here, a beautiful woman seems to be filled with anxiety. She has a furrowed brow and grasps a telephone in both hands as she says "Ohh ... Alright ..."

It seems obvious that she is talking to a man. Maybe a boyfriend?

The viewer is in suspense wondering what will unfold in this romantic narrative.

What was she just told on the phone? What is she reluctantly agreeing to?

In paintings like this, Lichtenstein lets us imagine the back story and what might happen next.