

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

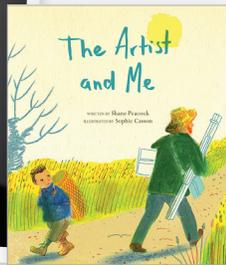
from Owlkids Books

the
ins!de
track



Meet illustrator Sophie Casson

SOPHIE CASSON is a Montreal-based illustrator inspired by Ukiyo-e (a genre of Japanese woodblock printing), pre-war era children's books, post-war posters, and stencil art. She has been nominated for the Governor General's award, and was runner-up for the Mr. Christie's Book Award. Visit her website at sophiecasson.com.



978-1-77147-138-1
\$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

The Artist and Me is a fictional confession told from the perspective of a man who, as a child, used to bully painter Vincent van Gogh. Using vibrant colors and textures reminiscent of van Gogh's art, the book touches on peer pressure, art education, and social/emotional development.

When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

Drawing, reading comics, doing crafts—those things kept me in my own world.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Eating lettuce!

As a child, where did you dream of living?

In a home as tiny as my double bed, with all my belongings lined up on shelves up to the ceiling all around me.

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

Gymnastics. I was very thin and flexible and had a great gym teacher who looked like Mr. Clean in the old advertisements, big and muscular with white hair.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

I was attracted to people who "had a story." It made them special to me, I guess. One of my friends was adopted, and another had a stepfather she disliked very much.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I didn't know what I wanted to be... but I knew I didn't want to work in a formal office in a suit!

Continued on next page ►



The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

the
ins!de
track

What was your favorite book as a child?

I loved Judy Bloom's books (and felt they didn't have that many at the library) and *Harriet the Spy*.

What is your favorite pastime now?

I've recently started creating ceramics and love it! Although it's linked to my work, I also love to read children's books and collect them.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Filing my taxes. Can I say that?

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

Maybe in Provence, in the South of France, where *The Artist and Me* is set. I have family there, and it truly is a beautiful place with incredible light, great weather, and a nonchalance that is relaxing.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

A great singing voice!

What makes a good friend?

Someone kind, authentic, and loyal.

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

I think I would have liked to be an educator for children with speech disabilities or deaf children.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

As I am from Quebec, I look at a lot of French books, and I recently bought the colorful *Dans un jardin* by Atak, which is aesthetically spectacular to read. It's a poetic walk in the park with lots of animals and plants, in a very large board-book format with little flaps that hide funny surprises. The naive graphic style reminded me of Henri (Le Douanier) Rousseau.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Live life like an adventure every day.