

## **Archie the Arty Sloth**

By Heath McKenzie

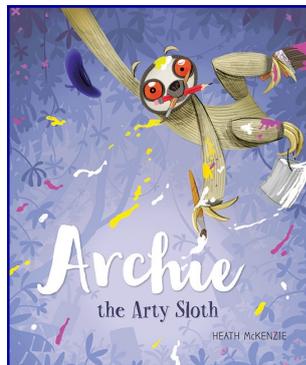
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Archie is a sloth. But while most sloths like to doze and laze around, Archie always wants to be busy!

How does a one-of-a-kind sloth accept that it's okay to stand out from the crowd?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Sloths
- Being unique
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Diversification
- Acceptance of others

### **Discussion Questions & Activities:**

- Before reading the story, ask the students if they have ever heard of a 'sloth'?
- If so, what do they know about them, including their characteristics and where they live?
- Ask students why they think it might be unusual for Archie to be an active sloth.
- Why might the other sloths want to keep Archie occupied?
- Ask students if they know what a mandrill is.
- Ask students to predict what might be inside a 1000 piece art set.
- Ask students if they know the names for the types of art and craft Archie is trying out – collage, embroidery, sculpting, pasta necklaces, etc.
- Looking closely at the illustrations, are the other sloths actually participating in the art project?
- Ask students about how they think Archie is feeling looking at the paintings by the other sloths. Why might he be feeling this way?
- Ask students if they have ever felt like their artwork wasn't good enough. How did this make them feel? What might have made them feel better?
- Discuss with students the importance of accepting that everyone paints, draws and colours in differently. Art is all about having fun, not being perfect.
- As a class, do your own replica of Archie's painting and then celebrate the differences in each interpretation.