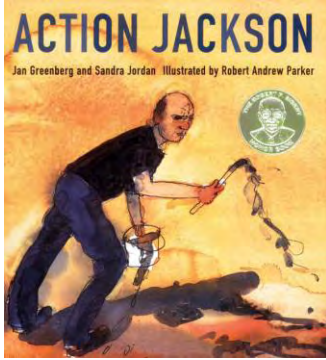


# APPRECIATING JACKSON POLLOCK

## Art activities based on *ACTION JACKSON*



Begin by reading *Action Jackson* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. You can read it out loud, have the children take turns reading it aloud, or allow them time to read it to themselves.

Then let everyone take a good look at the reproduction of Jackson Pollock's painting, *Lavender Mist*. Children should also have the chance to look at any work of Pollock's that you have in your collection.

### RESPONDING TO ART:

What do you say after you say, "I like this painting" or I don't like it"? For a moment, forget how you feel about the painting and think about what feelings the painting expresses. You can figure this out by answering some questions:

1. Do your eyes travel all around the painting or focus on one spot in the center?  
Is there a repeated pattern?
2. What do you see? Is it a house or a tree or a design without a recognizable image?
3. Sensory words refer to qualities in the painting that appeal to your five senses: sight, touch, smell, sound, or taste. What are some sensory words to describe the elements of color, line, shape, or texture in the painting?
  - a. Are the colors bright or dull, soft or garish?
  - b. Are the lines straight or curvy, wavy or angular?
  - c. Is the paint thick or thin? If you put your hand on the surface would it be flat or bumpy?
  - d. What kind of shapes do you see?
  - e. If you were to step inside the canvas, would you move slowly or quickly?  
Would it feel as if you are walking on a soft cloud, on rocks, or through syrup?
4. What is the mood of the painting as expressed by the colors, lines, shapes, and texture.
5. What kind of music would you choose to go with the painting? Jazz, rock and roll, or classical?
6. Pretend you are holding a paintbrush or a stick. Move your arms following the lines of the painting as if you were a conductor leading an orchestra.

## **TAKE ACTION**

Spread a sheet of brown paper on the floor. Moving around the painting with a paintbrush or a stick dipped in black paint, make swooping lines from one edge of the surface of the paper to the other. Let the paint dry. Add a new color. Use different arm motions – long and sweeping, short and quick. Notice that the way you use your arm changes the lines **on** the paper. Walk around the painting, working from all sides. You can let bare patches of brown paper come through. Make a handprint or two in the corner.

Put on some music and paint in rhythm to the music. Now you will have an idea of what it felt like to be Jackson Pollock working in that quiet barn.