



Transcript for *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant (Knopf Books for Young Readers, an Imprint of Penguin Random House)

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 4:30)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited for today's reading. But I do want to wait and allow some folks to join us. So, while we wait, let's talk a little bit about paint.

Now, we're going to read about Horace Pippin, who was an artist, who used paint to create a lot of his works. And he, specifically, used oil paints. But oil paints, they're not the only types of paint. There are also paints, like watercolors. So, there are all these different types of paints that artists can use.

Now, when we talk about paint, whether it's oil paints or watercolors, these paints are basically a mixture of pigment, which is what gives the paint its color, and then something else: the thing that the pigments are mixed with. So, in oil paint, the pigments are mixed with oil. And in watercolors, the pigments are mixed with something called gum arabic.

Now, oil, that is something that is not soluble in water. But the gum ar, the gum arabic, which is that material that the pigments are mixed with in watercolors, that is water soluble!

So, when we talk about soluble, we're talking about if something can dissolve in something else. Watercolors, the material gum arabic in watercolors, those are water soluble. So, they do dissolve in water. But oils, those are not water soluble. So, they don't dissolve in water.

Now, what I want you to do with that information is I want you to imagine I combined a cup of water and a cup of oil together. What do you think is going to happen? Based on what you know about oil, what do you think happens if you combine oil and water into one container? Take a moment to think about that. That's going to be your hypothesis for an experiment we do after the reading. Okay? Alright!

Now, it looks like more folks have joined us. So, let's go ahead and get started!

The first thing that we have to do is we have to talk about our guidelines for Story Book Science. So, we're not in the museum, but we are going to follow museum rules. So, that means if you have a question, you should feel free to ask that question! But you need to make sure to use kind and considerate words. Okay? If you respond to someone's question, or you write a comment, you also need to make sure to use kind and considerate words. Now, the reason we want to use those kind and considerate words is because we want to make sure that this space is welcoming to everyone! And to do that, we need to use those kind and considerate words. Can you do that for me? Can you make sure to use kind and considerate words? Excellent! Thank you so much!

Now, welcome to Story Book Science. Today, I will be reading the book *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin*. This book is written by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Melissa Sweet. And we are reading this book with permission from Knopf Books for Young Readers, which is an imprint of Penguin Random House. So, thank you to them for the permission to read this book! Now, this book is about Horace Pippin. So, we're

going to use two components of STEAM to better understand his life. So, we're going to use science and art to understand some of the amazing paintings that Horace Pippin created.

Now, I have two final things to say. The first is if you have questions, please feel free to ask, just know I may not be able to see those questions until the very end, and only if there is time. And if you need a partial transcript of this reading, that will be made available later on the museum's website. Alright? Excellent!

So, let's go ahead and get started!

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin.

Reading from *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* (approximately 4:31 – 17:10)

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 17:11 – 27:57)

The end!

Alright! Now, we read a book about the artist, Horace Pippin, and we used two components of STEAM to tell his story. So, STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. And to tell the story of Horace Pippin's life and his art, we are using science and art.

Now, do you remember who Horace Pippin was?

Yes! He was an artist. In fact, he was a self-taught artist! So, what that means is he taught himself how to do art. He didn't go to a fancy school. He taught himself. And he taught himself art at a very young age. But it wasn't until he was an adult where he started making the paintings that we know him by today.

Now, Horace's art was based on his life experiences, especially as a Black man living in America. And the first painting that he did as an adult, which we talked about in the book, was this painting called *The End of the War, Starting Home*. So, you can probably see those gray, and white, and black colors. And do you notice the splashes of red that we talked about in the book? I see some in the back of the painting.

Now, this painting was based on his experiences as a soldier during World War One. And we learned in the book, that he was injured during the war. And because of that he wasn't able to move his right arm like he was before the war. So, Horace Pippin had a disability. And he had to learn how to paint using an aid, using support. So, what he did was he used his left hand to hold his right hand. And then in his right hand, he held the brush, which you can see in the background of this, uh, this picture of Horace. And then he would use his left hand to guide his right hand over the canvas and paint. Alright?

Now, that painting, *The End of the War, Starting Home*, took three years for Horace to paint! Now, that's not a bad thing! He was using oil paints, which can be very, very difficult to work with, and they take a really long time to dry! And if you remember, he had 10 layers of paint! That's a lot of oil paint! So, it took three years for him to make this painting, but that's okay. Sometimes, it takes time to make art.

Now, this is just one example of a painting that he made. He also did self-portraits. So, this is an example of a self-portrait, or a painting that Horace Pippin did of himself. And he also did landscape paintings and paintings of places, such as this one, which is called *West Chester, Pennsylvania*. Alright?

Now, I'm going to show you those paintings again, and I want you to look for those splashes of color that Horace used. Okay? So, this is *The End of the War, Starting Home*. This is *Self-Portrait*. And this is *West Chester, Pennsylvania*.

Now, did you notice those splashes of color that Horace Pippin used in his paintings? Alright!

Now, you might remember that those splashes of color, the paintings he created, were made using oil paints! Now, Horace Pippin used oil paints, but there are a lot of other paints, including watercolors, like these.

Now, oil paints and watercolors, they're different, but they're very similar. Their pigments, which are what give the paint its color, and their pigments mixed with something else. So, oil paints, those pigments are mixed with oil. And watercolors, those pigments are mixed with a material called gum arabic.

Now, oil is not soluble in water, but gum arabic is soluble in water. So, what do I mean when I say soluble?

Soluble means that something is able to dissolve in something else. And it's an important word, so we're going to put it on the wall. And if it's a little difficult to read, I do apologize because right before I started reading, I accidentally spilled oil on it!

So, soluble means that something can dissolve in something else. So, if oil is not soluble in water, it means that oil cannot dissolve in water. But gum arabic, which is soluble in water, can dissolve in water. Alright?

Now, what I want you to think about is what would happen if I mixed a container of water and a container of oil together. If I put those two things into one container, what do you think would happen based on what you know about oil and its solubility in water?

Let's find out together!

Alright. So the first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to gather my supplies, and I'm not going to spill my oil this time. So, I have some oil. This is just vegetable oil. And I also have water. And I have a container to put them in.

So, I've got the materials, and I hope that you have a hypothesis, or what you think is going to happen when I do this experiment, when I put the water and oil into the container together.

Now, I'm going to keep my hypothesis to myself. But what we should do now is we should do the experiment.

So, here's the container. And what I'm going to do is I'm going to pour the water into the container. And now I'm going to pour the oil into the container. And I want you to watch what happens.

Alright. What do you notice?

What I notice is that there's a very clear layer of water at the bottom. And then, there's a layer of oil at the top. So, the oil didn't mix with the water. It's not dissolving in the water. So, the oil, it's not soluble in water. It doesn't dissolve. Also, the oil is less dense than water! So, it floats on top of the water.

Now, what I'm going to do is I'm going to put a lid on this container because I've had an idea. We didn't really shake it up. We just kind of poured the oil and water in the container together. So, maybe if we shake it, we'll see something else happen. Alright?

So I'm going to shake it now. Make sure the lid's on tight. I'm going to shake it, and we're going to see what happens. Okay?

[Liquids sloshing.]

Alright. So, if you notice, it's pretty bubbly. And what I see are these, kind of, tiny parts of oil that kind of separated from that major layer. But the little tiny parts that are now going back to the top layer. So, all of those tiny parts are coming back together to form that big layer. And it's no matter what, no matter how hard I shook it, the water is at the bottom, and the oil's at the top. Alright? Do you notice that? Do you see those two layers of water and oil? Yeah.

So, your hypothesis, what was it? What did our investigation show? Did it prove your hypothesis? Or did it disprove your hypothesis, meaning that something else happened then what you thought would happen?

Now, no matter what your hypothesis was, our investigation, our experiment showed us that oil and water, they don't mix. Oil does not dissolve in water. It is not water soluble. And that's because oil is a nonpolar liquid, but water is the opposite. So, the opposite of nonpolar is polar. So, water is a polar liquid. And polar and nonpolar, no matter how hard you shake the container, they are just not going to mix! Oil will not dissolve in water. Alright?

So, that is how we use science and art to investigate the life of Horace Pippin and study all of the amazing paintings he did.

Now, this is the end of Story Book Science, but I want to let you know that Prakriti will be here next week at 10am to share an activity based on today's book. And if you need materials, the museum will be distributing those from the museum a little later this week, on Saturday. Just know that that event, it is a limited kit distribution. So, you have to come early if you would like a kit. And we can't guarantee that you'll get one. But there's more information about that on the museum's Facebook page and also on the museum website. And I hope that you continue to join us with all of our activities planned for February, and I can't wait to see you soon! Alright? Bye!