

THIS ART IS FOR THE BIRDS

Questions and Projects to tie in the National Core Arts Standards

What conditions, attitudes and behaviors support creativity? What factors prevent or encourage people to take creative risks? *Why do you think Alex created? Do you think the pigeons' enthusiasm for Alex's art encouraged him?*

How do artists work? *What materials do you think Alex had to choose from? Did the objects he found inspire him?*

How do artists learn from trial and error? What role does persistence play in revising, refining, and developing work? *How do you think Alex selected what to use, or what objects to put with each other? How do you imagine Alex successfully secured all the pieces of the mobile together? How did he get the mobile to balance? Do you think Alex liked every piece he created?*

How does collaboratively reflecting on a work help us experience it more completely? *What do you think the pigeons saw in Alex's art? What do you imagine they said to each other in how they felt about it?*

Why do people value artworks and select them for presentation? *What do you think the curator in the book saw in Alex's art? Why do you think the guard was removing it?*

What is an art museum? How does the presenting and sharing of artworks influence and shape ideas, beliefs and experiences? *Why did the pigeons think it was important to have Alex's work in the museum?*

What can we learn from our responses to art? *What do you think of Alex's art? What is something you created that you think of as art?*

How does making art attune people to their surroundings? *What would Alex's art look like if he lived somewhere else? What would he have collected?*

Make a Mobile

Collect or make objects and connecting elements for the mobile. When deciding, think about color, size, weight, texture, durability (especially if using natural elements like twigs, etc.) Think about how to attach the pieces – tie, make hole in, glue, etc. (Could Alex use things like glue or scissors?) Test different things to make it balance. Think about if there a subject or theme, a mood or emotion to your work.