



WELCOME TO THE JOHN AND MARY PAPPAJOHN SCULPTURE PARK LET'S EXPLORE THE ART!

DES
MOINES
ART
CENTER

WE WILL



STAY TOGETHER



LOOK CAREFULLY



MAKE CONNECTIONS



SHARE IDEAS

WE WILL NOT



TOUCH THE ART

At each artwork



PAUSE

Stand still and look for 30 seconds before talking.

What do you notice first? What do you notice after looking longer?



CIRCLE

Walk around the sculpture, if possible.

Look from far away, close up, beside, behind, below, or through it.

What changes when your view changes?



NOTICE

Look for shapes, lines, colors, textures, materials, shadows, and space.

Does the sculpture feel heavy, light, quiet, loud, balanced, strange, playful, serious, still, or moving? What stands out?



CONNECT

What does the sculpture remind you of?

A place, memory, feeling, sound, person, story, or question?



SHARE

Before moving on, say one thing out loud:

"I noticed..."

"I wonder..."

"I like..."

"It reminds me of..."

"At first I thought..., but now I think..."



My **favorite** sculpture I visited today was _____

because _____



I was most **curious** about _____



AT THESE SCULPTURES

Nomade by
Jaume Plensa

How do the individual letters become something bigger together?



Spider by **Louise Bourgeois**

How is this sculpture both strong and fragile? What else can be both?



T8 by **Mark di Suvero**

How do you imagine the artist made this? What materials and tools might he have used?



moonrise. east.
august and january

Ugo Rondinone

How would you describe the mood of these artworks? What makes you say that?



TEACHERS + CHAPERONES

Tips for self-guided elementary age student groups

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed for large groups, small breakout groups, and teacher-led exploration of the park. The student side (on reverse) gives a repeatable routine to use wherever the group stops.

LARGE GROUP PLAN

- Break students into smaller groups of up to 12.
- Assign each group a different starting zone or nearby sculpture.
- At each stop, ask students to:
Pause, Circle, Notice, Connect, and Share
- Let groups move at their own pace, encouraging thoughtful exploration at each artwork. If the sculpture is crowded, move to a nearby work and return later.

SUGGESTED TIMING

5 minutes	Gather, review rules, assign groups
20-30 minutes	Small group exploration
5-10 minutes	Regroup and share

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a public green space and an extension of the Des Moines Art Center.

Help care for the park and the artwork

Do not touch, climb, or sit on sculptures, except for Scott Burton's *Seating for Eight*.

CLOSING QUESTION

Which sculpture do you remember most clearly, and what helped you remember it?

TEACHER NOTE

Download the guide to a phone or tablet or print copies before your visit. Designed to work in any order and print clearly in black and white.

More guides and audio resources: desmoinesartcenter.org

