

# Crazy about Art

by Eleanor G. Hirsch



- 1 Hokusai was a great Japanese artist. He had a strange life. He sold thousands of pictures. Yet he was almost always poor.
- 2 At first people didn't think much of his pictures. So they didn't pay him much. And they didn't take care of his pictures. Some people used his pictures to wrap things!
- 3 Hokusai wanted people to notice him. So he did odd things. Once he painted a huge picture. He used a broom for a brush. He dipped it in a bucket of ink!
- 4 Another time he drew two flying birds. But this picture was tiny. It was drawn on a grain of rice.
- 5 One time Hokusai got a rooster to step in red ink. Next, the rooster walked across some paper. Then Hokusai painted an autumn scene on the paper. The rooster's tracks became red leaves.
- 6 He did other strange things. He changed homes ninety times. He changed his name fifty times.
- 7 Hokusai drew and painted all his life. He was ninety years old when he died. By then he was famous. People knew Hokusai was a great artist.
- 8 *The Wave* is a famous picture by Hokusai. It shows a stormy sea. There is one huge wave. There are men in boats. The big wave towers over them. Maybe you've seen copies of *The Wave*. The Japanese government used it on a postage stamp. That showed their respect for Hokusai.
- 9 When Hokusai drew *The Wave*, he was almost seventy. In a few years he changed his name once more. This was the last time. He took the name he liked best, Gakyō Rōjin. It means "the old man crazy about art."

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** A story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. A story has a problem. A story is about how someone tries to solve the problem.

### Parts of a Story

Beginning tells <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who</li><li>• Where</li><li>• The problem</li></ul>
Middle tells <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How someone tries to solve the problem</li></ul>
End tells <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How the problem is solved</li></ul>

Read each sentence. Does it tell about the beginning, the middle, or the end of the story? Write *beginning*, *middle*, or *end*.

- 1 Hokusai got a rooster to step in red ink.
- 2 Hokusai was a Japanese artist.
- 3 Hokusai finally became famous when he was old.
- 4 Hokusai wanted people to notice him.
- 5 The government used *The Wave* on a stamp.

- E** restart = **re** + start  
unhappy = **un** + happy

The letters *re-* and *un-* are called prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the word's meaning. The prefix *re-* means "again." The word *restart* means "start again." The prefix *un-* means "not." The word *unhappy* means "not happy."

Each word in **bold type** needs a prefix. Choose the correct prefix, *re-* or *un-*. Write the new word.

- 6 Hokusai could not sell his work. It was \_\_\_**sold**\_\_.
- 7 Hokusai didn't like the bird, so he painted it again. He \_\_\_**painted**\_\_ it.
- 8 The woman put the paper around the painting again. She \_\_\_**wrapped**\_\_ it.
- 9 The young Hokusai was not famous. He was \_\_\_**known**\_\_.
- 10 Hokusai named himself again. He \_\_\_**named**\_\_ himself.