Vincent van Gogh, one of the most famous artists of all time, was never famous during his lifetime! In fact, van Gogh only sold a few (maybe even only one or two) of his approximately 900 paintings while he was alive!

DID YOU KNOW...

What might artists gain from having their work appropriated by someone else? What might they lose?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A girl in Deseree's class, Steffie, had a bunch of older friends who often sent Steffie their old notes and papers. One day, Deseree overheard Steffie begging one of the girls to email her an essay that was due later the week. "OK," the girl said, "but you can only use it for inspiration. Don't copy my actual writing!" "I promise!" Steffie replied. As soon as the older girl walked away, Steffie turned to Deseree and laughed, saying, "That is officially the easiest essay I've ever written. Guess I won't have to break open the book after all." Deseree had no idea whether Steffie was going to literally copy and paste from the essay or somehow disguise her cheating, but she had a real feeling that Steffie wasn't going to complete the assignment in the way their teacher imagined.

Family Activity

Do you remember...

What you should consider when you use other people’s creative work?

Think Out Loud!

- What is your immediate reaction to this situation? What seems realistic or unrealistic?
- What would you do if you were in Deseree’s position? Would you tell anyone? If so, whom?
- Do you think the older girl was wrong to send Steffie her paper? Why, or why not?
- Does whether or not Steffie gets caught make a difference in terms of whether or not she actually did something wrong?
- Are there any ways that technology makes it easier to steal other peoples’ work? Are there any ways that technology makes it more difficult to steal other peoples’ work?

Common Sense Says ...

Copying and pasting material into your schoolwork without citing it is plagiarism and can get you in serious trouble. Make sure to CITE any information you’re borrowing from another source. If you’re not sure how to cite properly, ask a teacher or an older student for help. It’s also important to add citations right away as you’re working. Otherwise, you might forget where something came from or accidentally leave out the citation and unintentionally plagiarize.