Teacher Notes

Art Personified

Activity 1: Exploring Descriptive Compositions, Personification

Activity Overview

Using a piece of art (image or object) as inspiration, students practice their writing skills.

Tip

Select an image or object to which most students can relate. The artwork may even be a student-created piece from an art class at your school. A dramatic news photo of a well-known event works nicely. Many news agencies publish photos of key events of the year in December or January.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Ensure that students have their TI-83 Plus graphing handhelds and keyboards ready for recording information. Refer to *Accessing the NoteFolio™ Application on the TI-83 Plus* at the end of this activity for instructions on how to access and use the NoteFolio™ application on the handheld.

During the Activity

Place the image or object where all students can see it. Alternatively, it may be helpful to have photocopies of an image or object for students to view.

Ask the students to type the old adage, "A picture is worth 1,000 words" into the NoteFolio™ file. Tell the class that their assignment is to come up with 1,000 words about the piece of art on display. In a class of 25, each student would have to make a list of 40 words. Give students 15 minutes to create and type their lists on the handheld. When time is up, have a brief class discussion about the students' words. The teacher should write some of the words on a transparency on an overhead projector to facilitate the discussion.

After the discussion, each student will engage in personification by writing a brief monologue from the point of view of the image or object. Have a few students share their monologues at the end of class.

After the Activity

Remind students that the point of Activity 1 is to show them that a picture (or object) can tell a story, not simply to come up with a list of 1,000 words. One picture may be worth 100 words, while another may be worth 10,000 words…but every picture, every object has something to say. Every picture, every object is a text to be read. Every picture, every object can tell a story.

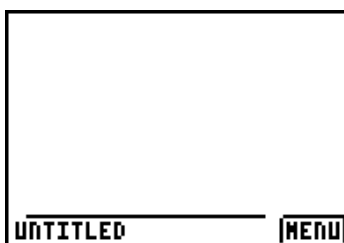## *Accessing the NoteFolio™ Application on the TI-83 Plus*

The following procedure enables you to access the NoteFolio™ application, assuming that the application is already installed on the TI-83 Plus graphing handheld.

Note: The NoteFolio™ application is most efficiently used on the TI-83 Plus with the TI Keyboard.

1. Turn on the handheld and press APPS to display the list of installed applications. Using ▲ ▼, highlight **NoteFlio** from the application list.
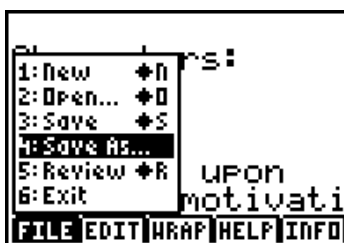
2. Press ENTER twice to clear the NoteFolio™ introduction screen and display a new (blank) NoteFolio™ file.
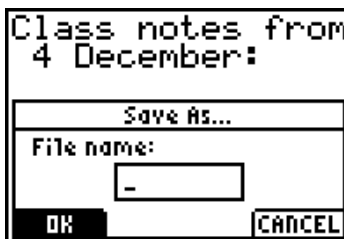
3. Students should complete the exercise in the opened file.

4. When students have completed their work, have them save their files by selecting **Menu** (pressing GRAPH), using ▲ ▼ to highlight **Save As**, and pressing ENTER. A suggested file name for this activity is "ARTPRA," for "Art Personified Practice."

5. Press CLEAR to remove any text that may appear in the **File name** box on the **Save As** screen and enter the new file name. Remember to use uppercase letters and numbers only. If you are not using a TI Keyboard, remember to press the ALPHA key to type letters.

6. Select **OK** (press Y=) to save the file.