More Than Mashed Potatoes

I used to hate art class

'Til my teacher helped me see

That what my eyes are seeing

Are not what things can be.

Mashed potatoes aren't potatoes,

That's what he said to me.

"They're a mountain. They're a cloud.

Pour some gravy. Make a sea."

A block of wood is just that—

A piece of wood, I say.

My teacher tells me, "Look again.

Here's a tool. Go carve away."

Now a block of wood it's not,

It's a spaceship or a car.

Just remove some extra wood,

Teacher, look! I am a star!

Water paints aren't only colors,

They become just what you wish.

With some paper, brush, and water

I create a deep-sea fish.

Now wire's not just metal,

It's a thin man or a cat.

Make a silly face or tree

Bend it this way, or like that.

Sticks and stones, feathers, shells,

Each is much more than what you see.

And I—master cook—make art with them,

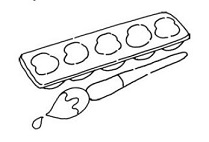
Following my recipe.

I understand art better now

Even though I'm not the smartest

There is one thing I'm certain of—

I am QUITE the artist.



1. Which sentence uses the correct verbs?

* 

A.

Last week I goes to music class, and today I goes to art class.

* 

B.

Does you like my project?

* 

C.

Yesterday I made a spaceship, and now I am making a car.

* 

D.

I seen some art this morning, and I saw some artwork now.

1. Read the stanza from the poem.

Mashed potatoes aren't potatoes,

That's what he said to me.

"They're a mountain. They're a cloud.

Pour some gravy. Make a sea."

What does the phrase "They're a mountain. They're a cloud." mean?

* 

A.

Mashed potatoes are part of nature.

* 

B.

Mashed potatoes are high and moist.

* 

C.

Mashed potatoes are things you cannot touch.

* 

D.

Mashed potatoes are whatever you want them to be.

1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

### Part A

Which sentence best describes the lesson of the poem?

* 

A.

An artist is someone who makes money from his or her art.

* 

B.

An artist is anyone who uses things to make art.

* 

C.

Art should be studied in a class.

* 

D.

Some things are hard to see.

### Part B

Which line **best** supports the lesson of the poem?

* 

A.

"l used to hate art class"

* 

B.

"A block of wood is just that—"

* 

C.

"l understand art better now"

* 

D.

"Even though I'm not the smartest"

The Assignment

My teacher gave an assignment

I don't know where to begin

I have to write an essay

About a heroine.

She has to be a superstar

Someone I admire

A woman who's a light that guides

And sets my heart afire.

What about our mayor?

She keeps parks safe and clean

But does she take me to the store

When I need some jeans?

And there's my favorite movie star

She sings and dances too

But would she sing a lullaby

If I were only two?

I admire my music teacher, who's

A nightingale that sings

But she's never made a costume

With stars and angel wings.

I admire my county's senator

Her job is hard to do

She's honest and intelligent.

Can she cook brownies too?

I admire Amelia Earhart, who

Made history when she flew

But where was she the other day

When I was sick with flu?

This leads me to a conclusion

The only one to be made

I have to look quite close to home

To see who makes the grade.

A woman who's a blanket

Of love and warmth and care

Who's been with me right from the start

And always will be there.

My mom's the real rock star

My pen she will inspire

She'll be my essay's heroine cause

She's the person I admire!



1. Drag each idea to the passage it belongs to.

Important point: You can see how special someone is when you see the things they do. returned to choices list.

* **Important point: You can see how special someone is when you see the things they do.: “The Assignment”**
* **Important point: To make art, you need to see what an object can become.: “More than Mashed Potatoes.”**
* **Key detail: “Now a block of wood it’s not, / it’s a spaceship or a car.”: “More than Mashed Potatoes”**
* **Key detail: “A woman who’s a blanket / Of love and warmth and care”: “The Assignment”**
* **“More than Mashed Potatoes”**
* **“The Assignment”**
* 5. Select the correctly spelled word in each sentence.
* The babysitter left a message / messaje for the parents when he left.
* Leave plenty of spase / space in the refrigerator for the turkey.
* Can you afford the price / prise of movie tickets?

6. Use the drop-down menus to select the best vocabulary word for each sentence.

My dad is not very  . He would rather stay at home than travel.

The road was   difficult to travel.

It was very   of you to protect that boy from the bully.

7. Select which word **﻿best**﻿completes the following sentences.

The dog was dirtier / dirtiest / dirtyest than the cat when he came home. It was the colder / coldest / colddest day he could remember. He was happier / happiest / happyesy to be home than ever before. In fact, his smile might be the biger / bigger / biggest smile ever seen.