



The project on the next page goes along with the book *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy* written and illustrated by Mo Willems.

If you don't have this book, click [here](#) to listen to the book read aloud by a member of The Ringling's Education Staff!

In this story, true to its title, the main character desperately wants a puppy and uses every bargaining tool in the book to try to convince the reader he should get one. When he does finally get a puppy, he discovers that dogs are quite different from what he was expecting!

We like this story because the pigeon takes us through the whole range of emotions that we feel and actions that we (or our little ones) take when we want something and cannot have it: from politely asking to throwing a tantrum!

For the art activity on the next page, we will create our own perfect pets—real or imaginary—using clay!



Johann Georg Ziesenis (German, 1716 - 1776), *Portrait of a Young Lady*, 18th Century, Oil on canvas, 58 1/4 x 45 1/2 in. Bequest of John Ringling, 1936. SN327

MUSEUM CONNECTION

This art project was inspired by this portrait of a young woman, currently on display in the Museum of Art.

Just like the pigeon in the book, this woman has a pet. She is holding her small, well-groomed dog in the nook of her arm. The dog also wears an bold red collar that contrasts nicely to the blue lace of its owner's dress. In the time this image was created, having a portrait painted could take several days of posing. So this woman must have loved her dog very much to have it included in her portrait! Would you be able to sit still with your pet to get a portrait painted?

EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS:

I.C.1

I.C.2

IV.A.1

IV.A.2

IV.A.3

IV.F.1

IV.F.2

IV.F.3

IV.F.4

VIII.A.1

VIII.D.1

VIII.E.1

VIII.E.2

ACTIVITY

THE PIGEON WANTS A PUPPY

MATERIALS:

MATERIALS: MODEL MAGIC/PLAY-DOH/CLAY, GOOGLEY EYES, SEQUINS, FEATHERS, OTHER ITEMS FOR DECORATION

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

SIMPLE



Imaginary pet made with clay.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Start by thinking of your perfect pet. Would it be a real animal like a cat or dog? Or something you make up in your imagination?
2. Build the body of your pet using the clay.
3. Add different features to your pet using googly eyes, sequins, feathers, and other fun decorations. Don't forget to give it a name!
4. Let the clay dry before taking your own portrait with your perfect pet.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!

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