Name: _____ Date: _____

Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Circle group

When a favorite bowl cracks, many people hide the damage. Some throw the bowl away. In Japan, potters came up with a different idea. It is called kintsugi. The word means "golden joinery." The repair does not hide the break. It makes the break shine.

The work starts with a broken bowl in pieces. A craftsperson cleans the edges of each piece. Then a sticky natural lacquer is brushed on the edges. The pieces are pressed together. The glue is left to cure. It can take many days to get hard.

Next, the artist adds more lacquer over the seams. While it is still tacky, fine gold powder is sprinkled on top. When it dries, the gold is polished until it glows. A crack becomes a bright line. The line follows the path where the bowl broke.

No two mended bowls look the same, since no two breaks are the same. A mended cup can be more interesting than the plain one it was before. Kintsugi shows that an object can keep its history and still be used. The gold lines tell the story of the bowl.

Questions

1. What does kintsugi mean?

_____

_____

2. What is brushed on the edges of the broken pieces?

_____

_____

3. What is sprinkled over the seams while the lacquer is tacky?

_____

_____

4. Why do no two mended bowls look the same?

_____

_____

5. How is kintsugi different from hiding a crack?

_____

_____

6. What does kintsugi show people?

_____

_____

Words to know

kintsugi: a way of mending pottery with gold
lacquer: a sticky coating that hardens into a smooth shell
seams: the lines where two pieces join
tacky: a little sticky to the touch
polished: rubbed until smooth and shiny

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Triangle group

When a favorite bowl cracks, most people want to hide the damage or throw the bowl away. In Japan, potters developed a different idea called kintsugi. The word means "golden joinery." Instead of hiding the break, the repair makes it shine.

The work begins when a broken bowl is gathered into its pieces. A craftsperson cleans the edges of each piece. Then a sticky natural lacquer is brushed along the edges, and the pieces are pressed together. The glue is left to cure, and it can take many days to harden fully.

Next, the artist covers the seams with more lacquer and sprinkles fine gold powder over it while it is still tacky. After it dries, the gold is polished until it glows. What was once a crack becomes a bright line that follows the exact path where the bowl broke.

No two repaired bowls look alike, because no two breaks are alike. A mended cup may be more interesting than the plain one it was before. Kintsugi reminds people that an object can keep its history and still be useful. The golden lines tell the story of the bowl, rather than hiding it.

Questions

1. What does the word kintsugi mean?

_____

_____

2. What is brushed on the edges of the broken pieces?

_____

_____

3. What is sprinkled over the seams while the lacquer is still tacky?

_____

_____

4. Why does no two repaired bowls look alike?

_____

_____

5. How is kintsugi different from hiding a crack?

_____

_____

6. What idea does kintsugi remind people of?

_____

_____

Words to know

kintsugi: a way of mending pottery with gold
lacquer: a sticky coating that hardens into a smooth shell
seams: the lines where two pieces join
tacky: a little sticky to the touch
polished: rubbed until smooth and shiny

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Square group

When a cherished bowl cracks, most people are tempted either to conceal the damage or to discard the bowl altogether. In Japan, however, potters developed a very different philosophy called kintsugi, a word meaning "golden joinery." Rather than disguising the break, the repair makes it glow.

The process begins once the broken bowl has been gathered into its separate pieces. A craftsperson carefully cleans the edges of each fragment, then brushes a sticky natural lacquer along them and presses the pieces together. The adhesive is left to cure, and it can require many days to harden completely.

Afterward, the artist coats the seams with additional lacquer and sprinkles fine gold powder over it while it remains tacky. Once it has dried, the gold is polished until it gleams. What was once a crack becomes a brilliant line that traces the exact path along which the bowl broke.

No two mended bowls look alike, because no two breaks are alike, and a repaired cup may be considerably more interesting than the plain one it used to be. Kintsugi reminds people that an object can keep its history and still be useful, since the golden lines tell the story of the bowl instead of hiding it.

Questions

1. What does the word kintsugi mean?

_____

_____

2. What is brushed along the edges of the broken pieces?

_____

_____

3. What is sprinkled over the seams while the lacquer remains tacky?

_____

_____

4. Why do no two repaired bowls look alike?

_____

_____

5. How does kintsugi differ from concealing a crack?

_____

_____

6. What does kintsugi remind people?

_____

_____

Words to know

kintsugi: a way of mending pottery with gold
lacquer: a sticky coating that hardens into a smooth shell
seams: the lines where two pieces join
tacky: a little sticky to the touch
polished: rubbed until smooth and shiny

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Golden joinery.
2. A sticky natural lacquer.
3. Fine gold powder.
4. No two breaks are the same, and the gold follows each break.
5. It makes the repair stand out and shine instead of covering it.
6. That an object can keep its history and still be used.

Triangle: Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

This passage · 194 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. Golden joinery.
2. A sticky natural lacquer.
3. Fine gold powder.
4. No two breaks are alike, and the gold follows the path of each break.
5. It makes the repair stand out and shine instead of covering it up.
6. That an object can keep its history and still be useful.

Square: Kintsugi: Mending a Bowl with Gold

Harder · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10

1. Golden joinery.
2. A sticky natural lacquer.
3. Fine gold powder.
4. No two breaks are alike, and the gold traces the exact path of each break.
5. It makes the repair stand out and glow rather than covering it up.
6. That an object can keep its history and still be useful.