

All: Lingokids.

Lisa: Hi, Cowie. Why are your hands so purpley?

Cowie: Oh, that's purple paint. I just finished a new picture.

Lisa: Ooh. Can I see it?

Cowie: Sure. The paint is still drying. Here it is. I call it Fancy Flying Elephant [elephant rumbling]. What do you think?

Lisa: Well, it's kind of weird.

Cowie: Weird?

Female Speaker: Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Join us as we learn about how it feels when someone criticizes your artwork or anything that is important to you. Is it possible to be honest and kind at the same time? Join us to find out in today's episode.

Cowie: Lisa, why did you call my picture weird?

Lisa: Well, because it is weird. Elephants don't fly, Cowie.

Cowie: Mine do.

[elephant rumbling]

Lisa: Also, why are they purple? Every elephant I've ever seen is gray.

Cowie: I like purple. It's my favorite color.

Elliot: Hi, Cowie. Ooh, nice picture. Those ants are so cute.

Cowie: Ants? Elliot, they are not ants. They're elephants.

[elephant rumbling]

Elliot: Huh, that's weird. They look like ants to me. Ants jumping on a trampoline.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says you should add more ants and some airplanes.

[plane humming]

Cowie: Ah, don't say that to me. None of you understand my art.

Female Speaker: Cowie, it sounds like you're feeling upset about the way your friends are talking about your art.

Cowie: I am. They're being mean.

Lisa: Hey, I'm not being mean. I'm being honest.

Female Speaker: Lisa, it is good to be honest and tell the truth, but I think you hurt Cowie's feelings when you criticized her artwork.

Lisa: Oh, but I didn't mean to. I don't even know what criticize means.

Female Speaker: Criticize means to say what is wrong with something or someone.

Elliot: Sorry, Cowie. I didn't mean to criticize. I like your art. I just thought it was ant art.

Cowie: Thanks, Elliot. I guess if I squish up my eyes, they do look a little like ants.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says he thinks it's fine without the airplanes. He just got excited.

Lisa: Well, I'm not sorry. Cowie asked me what I thought and I told her. Am I supposed to lie?

Female Speaker: I don't think you have to lie. Not everyone likes the same kind of art, and that's okay. It's more about the way you say it. Lingokids listeners, can you think of some tips to help Lisa talk about Cowie's art in a gentle way?

Elliot: You can say one thing you like about it.

Female Speaker: Great idea. Like what?

Elliot: Well, I really like the way the elephant trunks swirl around the page.

[elephant rumbling]

Cowie: Thanks, Elliot.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says you can ask questions, like if you're confused or curious about something.

Lisa: I guess I could do that.

Female Speaker: Sometimes if you take a breath before you say anything, it gives you a little extra time to think about how it will sound to the person who made it. Do you want to try again, Lisa?

Lisa: Yes. Okay. [breathes in] Cowie, why did you choose to make the elephants purple?

Cowie: Well, I just had a feeling in my heart, and purple is my favorite color. Also, it makes the elephants feel fancy.

Lisa: Wow, that's cool. Now I get it. Fancy flying elephants [elephant rumbling] [laughs]. But I never thought you could paint them in purple.

Cowie: That's what I like about art. I can make it however I want.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says it would be boring if everyone painted elephants the same way.

Cowie: I guess that would be boring.

Elliot: Oh. I would make my elephants in rowboats, wearing baseball hats so they don't get sunburned, of course.

Cowie: I love that idea.

Lisa: Elliot, elephants don't get sunburns.

Cowie: Lisa?

Lisa: Oh, yes. [breathes in] I might actually like to see that picture, Elliot. It sounds funny.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says famous artists make things how they want to, with their imaginations.

Cowie: Yes, and when you're an artist, everyone loves your artwork. Artists are all super famous.

Female Speaker: Well, that's not exactly true. Most artists are not very popular at the beginning, and they don't make a lot of money. They have to really believe in themselves, even if other people don't get it. In fact, some famous artists only became famous after they die.

Cowie: Really? Like who?

Female Speaker: Frida Kahlo is a Mexican artist who is now very famous, but when she was alive, she only had one solo show of her artwork. Now her paintings are in museums all around the world.

Cowie: I would be so mad if no one wanted to see my artwork.

Elliot: Yes. Why did she even keep painting?

Female Speaker: Frida Kahlo painted because she loved to paint and because it helped her feel better. She said, "I am happy to be alive as long as I can paint."

Cowie: Painting makes me happy, too.

Lisa: Wow, it's hard to be an artist.

Female Speaker: It can be.

Lisa: Is it ever okay to say if you don't like something?

Female Speaker: Yes. I think if someone is asking for your opinion, it's okay to share what you think, but it's important to be gentle in the way you share it, especially if it's something important to that person.

Elliot: Maybe we can practice.

Female Speaker: That's a great idea.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says we can practice with his latest creation. What is it, Billy?

[bird chirping]

Cowie: Ah.

Female Speaker: Oh, it seems to be a macaroni and cheese sculpture?

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Yes, that's what it is. Billy wants to know if you like it.

Cowie: It's very unusual.

Lisa: No, it's disgu-- oops, hold on. [breathes in] I'm going to ask a question. How did you decide on that material?

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy chose macaroni and cheese because he is hungry.

Cowie: Me, too.

Elliot: My tummy is rumbling.

[bird chirping]

Female Speaker: Billy says the best part about his sculpture is that you can eat it.

[bird chirping]

Elliot: Yay.

Lisa: Yay.

Cowie: Oh, this art is delicious.

[laughter]

Female Speaker: Well, Lingokids listeners, we talked about something tricky today. The difference between criticizing and giving opinions in a friendly way. We learned that we all like different things, but the way we say it to each other matters. Join us next episode to continue play learning together.

[music]

[00:07:52] [END OF AUDIO]