

# What does 'step inside' mean? To feel like the other person or something in nature.



*You can 'step inside' a painting. "I may be old but the birds still come and visit me, I may have now no leaves but the children still climb me. I have seen a lot."*

On the one hand, we could have begun with offering the provocation or premise that this was a famous painting, however on this occasion the students viewed the painting and were then asked what they could see. The more they observed, the more they saw. Not only instinctively looking for the recognisable, as in the tree form, the students related to the metaphors or symbolism of the colours, the dark shades, the shadows and what this signified to them. For us, it was the transference of the looking and thinking beyond this painting and beyond the class room that was important. The students valued the natural items they brought in to the classroom from their playground discoveries. They sensed the importance in the uncovering and speculation. They continued to construct with natural materials during their play however, their increasing interest was in their wondering. They noticed the travels and observed the trail left by a small creature on the inside piece of bark which had now fallen away from the tree. They were mindful of not removing the bark from a tree and letting nature take its course, so to speak. We believe this was due to the students' gaining of further knowledge and understanding about nature.

