



PIECES from the PAST



Talk About It

If you had to put together a museum exhibit of special items from your past, what would you include?



Find out more about ceramics at

www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

derision	arid
ceramics	deftly
furrowed	symmetry
eaves	benefit



Homophones

Homophones are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings. *Eaves*, *eves*, and *Eve's* are homophones.



Pottery dating from around sixth century B.C.



Minoan vase dating from around 1500 B.C.

A Change of Heart

by Matt Petrillo

Joe woke up in a bad mood. He didn't want to go to the museum with his school group today. The class had voted on their spring field trip, and Joe's suggestions did not win. He had wanted to do something outdoors, like visit a horse farm. He thought with **derision**, "What could I possibly find interesting about a museum dedicated to **ceramics**? Pottery is boring!"

But Joe had no choice. Most of the class had voted to go to the International Museum of Ceramics. With his brow **furrowed**, or wrinkled, Joe got ready for the trip. To try to cheer himself up, he noted, "It is raining today. We would have spent the whole outdoor trip standing under the **eaves** of the barn's roof trying to stay dry."

When the group reached the museum, they listened to the guide's introduction. Joe listened halfheartedly. "You might think that ceramics are just something your great aunt

paints in a weekly class. Those are indeed ceramics, but the art form extends much further than that,” the guide said. “As you tour the museum, you will learn about the importance of ceramics from ancient times. The pottery shards that have been found tell us a lot about the cultures they came from.” Joe didn’t know that ceramics was an ancient art. The guide was right. Joe did think of his great aunt and figurines when he thought of ceramics. Maybe this wouldn’t be so bad after all.

Then the museum tour began. As they came upon the Native American pottery of the Southwest, the guide explained that the **arid**, or dry, climate helped the pottery dry faster. The guide showed a video of a woman **deftly** shaping a vase. Joe was fascinated by how skillful she was.

She looked as if she were born doing it; she looked so natural. Joe was amazed at the **symmetry** of the vases. It had to be difficult to get everything so balanced.

As the exhibits displayed works from more modern eras, the ceramics became fancier. Joe and his class saw sugar bowls, vases, statues, plates, and everything in between. He laughed at the odd shapes of Pablo Picasso’s ceramic creations.

By the end of the day, Joe’s mood had completely changed. He was glad he had come to the museum. He saw the **benefit** of learning about a variety of cultures through their ceramic works. He would definitely be happy to visit the museum again.



Cup, hands holding a fish (1953) by Pablo Picasso

Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Author’s Perspective

In order to evaluate the information in a text, it is important to understand the author’s perspective. The attitude or opinions an author has toward the subject is his or her perspective.

An Author’s Perspective Web can help you note clues about an author’s perspective as you reread “A Change of Heart.”

