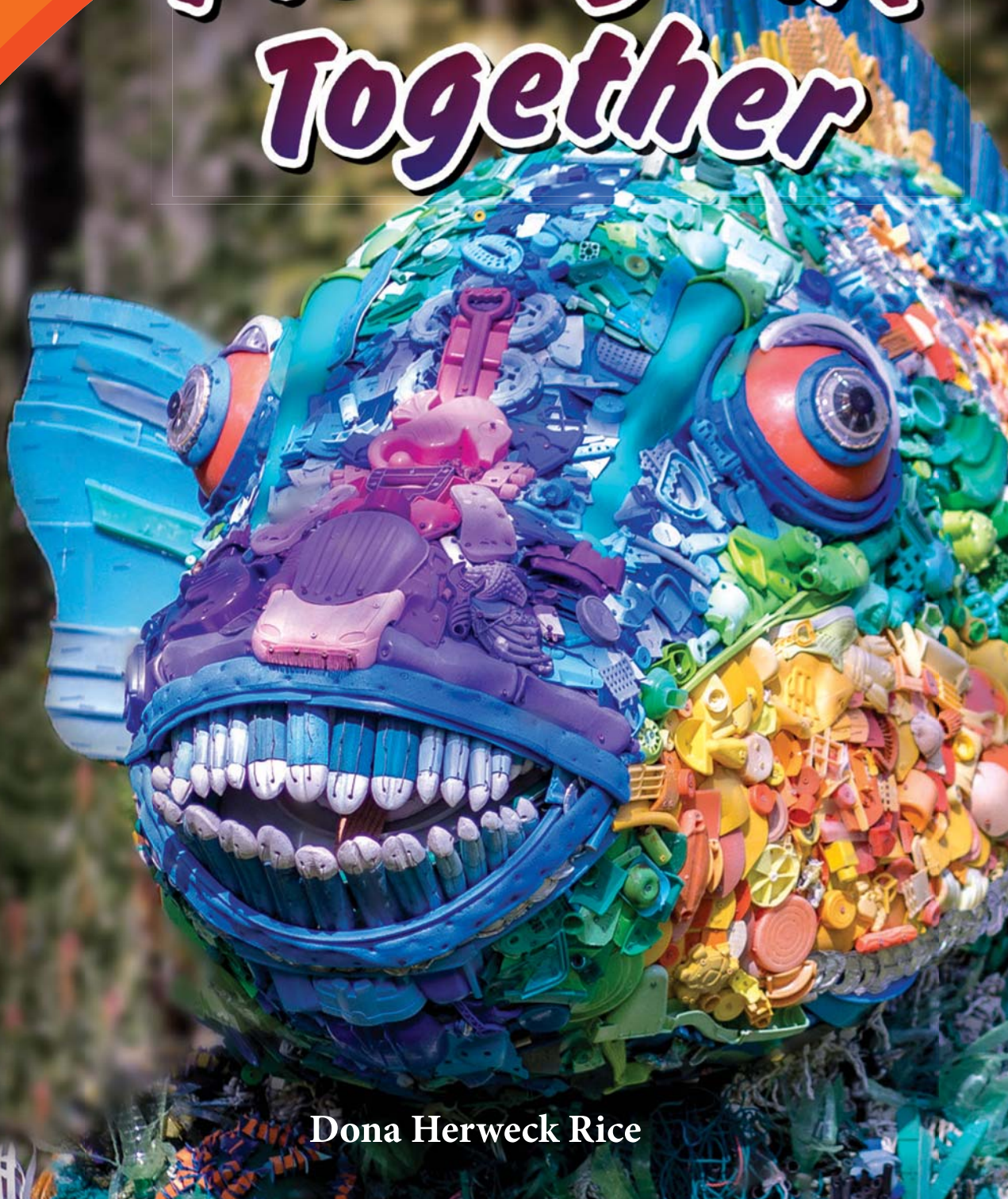




Smithsonian

Piecing Art Together



Dona Herweck Rice

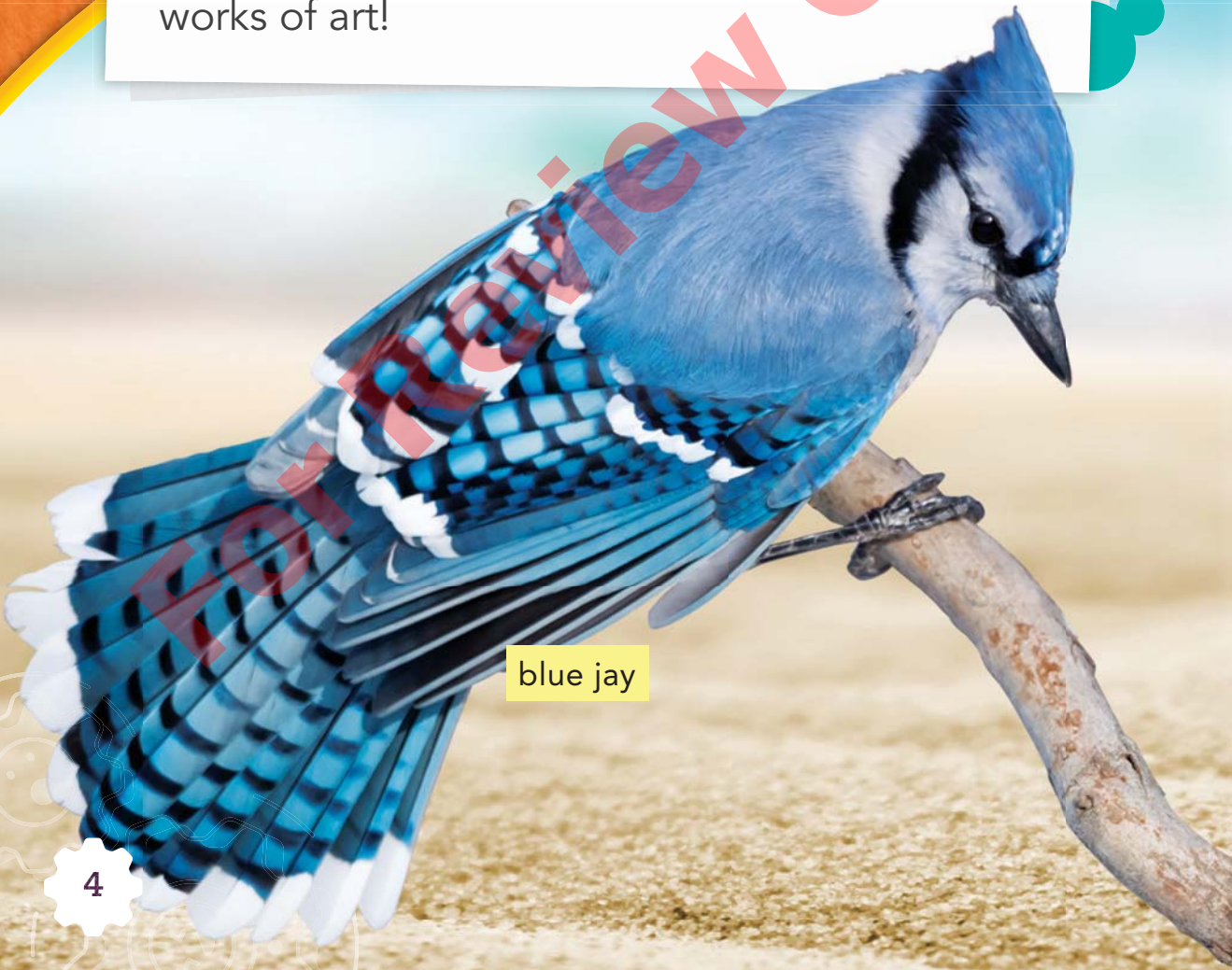
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Look Around

Hundreds of feathers cover a blue jay. Thousands of leaves cover a tree. Millions of grains of sand cover a beach.

Look around. The world is filled with small things that combine to make big and beautiful things. Art can be like that too. In fact, some artists only work with little **bits** to create big works of art!



blue jay

maple tree



grains of sand



From Found to Fab

Most artists make art in common **mediums**. They use things such as paint and clay. Other artists use different mediums. They might make art from things they find. They look for beauty in found objects. For example, some art is made from dryer **lint**! Bits and pieces of nature are also used.



An artist makes jars out of clay.



An artist uses paint on a canvas.

Lint

Lint comes off in clothes dryers. The color of lint depends on the color of fabrics being dried. Each color of lint can be used as it is or mixed to create works of art.



This art piece by Tonya Corkey is made with dryer lint.



Artists can find art everywhere they look. They might find trash or broken pieces of glass and turn them into art. They might shape the pieces into things you know. Or, they might form patterns.

What artists make can be silly or serious. Art can serve a purpose or just be fun to look at. But no matter what, it is still art!

These pieces of trash and recycled materials can be turned into works of art.



This work of art by
HA Schult is called
Trash People.





STEAM CHALLENGE

Define the Problem

Your town is having a Trash-to-Treasure day. People have asked you to design a sculpture.



Constraints: You must use at least 10 items to make your sculpture. You must use items that most people would put in the trash. You may use tape or glue to hold the parts together.



Criteria: Your sculpture must be able to stand on its own for at least 15 seconds.





Research and Brainstorm

Why should you have patience when creating art? What types of items might be considered trash? How can you make your sculpture stand?



Design and Build

Collect at least 10 pieces of trash for your artwork. What purpose will each part serve? What materials will work best? Create your sculpture.



Test and Improve

Show your design to your friends. Did your sculpture use 10 items of trash? Did it stand for 15 seconds? How can you improve it? Improve your design and try again.



Reflect and Share

Why should people make art with items from the trash? How else can people turn trash into something new?

