

A Vicious Circle

Step 1: What do you notice?

Ask your students to make sense of the photograph by trusting their instincts of observation and inference. In doing so, the image offers possibilities and interpretations beyond a typical reading where the reader glances at a photograph to reinforce its title or caption. Do not introduce any facts, captions, or other written words.

In response to the question “What do you notice?” you may hear: light blue coral-like pieces linked in four separate strands, lime green sprigs, fuzzy texture, red and black tree or tassel shapes, a gray circle made of loops close together.

Step 2: What are you wondering?

After you’ve heard your students’ first observations, you may hear a peppering of questions: It looks fuzzy, but does it feel fuzzy? Did someone make this? Is it knitted fabric? Is this real or a symbolic representation?

