

# Interpreting *The Great Wave Off* *Kanagawa*

# *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* by Hokusai



# Katsushika Hokusai

- Japanese woodblock printing artist
- Lived 1760 –1849
- Created a series called “36 Views of Mt. Fuji”



# Katsushika Hokusai

*From around the age of six, I had the habit of sketching from life. I became an artist, and from fifty on began producing works that won some reputation, but nothing I did before the age of seventy was worthy of attention. At seventy-three, I began to grasp the structures of birds and beasts, insects and fish, and of the way plants grow. If I go on trying, I will surely understand them still better by the time I am eighty-six, so that by ninety I will have penetrated to their essential nature. At one hundred, I may well have a positively divine understanding of them, while at one hundred and thirty, forty, or more I will have reached the stage where every dot and every stroke I paint will be alive. May Heaven, that grants long life, give me the chance to prove that this is no lie.*



# 36 Views of Mt. Fuji







*The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* is the most famous of the series.



**Why?**



# Many artists are inspired by *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa*

- Artists pay **homage** to Hokusai by interpreting his artwork.
- What do you think **homage** means?





# hom·age

- [hom-ij, om-]—*noun*
- 1. respect or reverence paid or rendered.
- 2. something done or given in acknowledgment or consideration of the worth of another.
- *Synonyms*  
1. deference, obeisance; honor, tribute. 3. fidelity, loyalty, devotion.

# Modern Interpretations

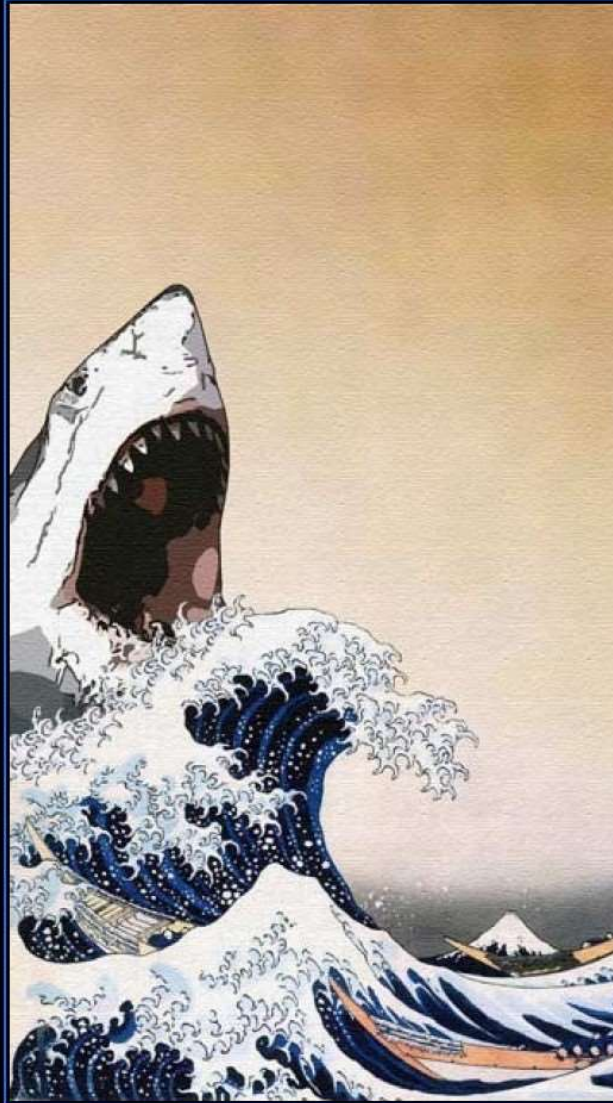












## THE GREAT WAVE OFF KANAGAWA

Sharks make things go from Great to AMSOME!!!











THE GREAT WAVE  
A CAT'S PERSPECTIVE





Brainstorm: How would you visually interpret *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa*?

