

HOW TO STUDY A WORK OF ART

Artists paint to express their ideas and feelings that words sometimes cannot explain. Art is a language and we do not all have to speak the same words to enjoy and appreciate art objects.

Describe it:

- What kinds of things do you see in this painting? What else do you see?
- What words would you use to describe this painting to someone who could not see it?
- Does the painting tell a story? What is the story?
- How would you describe the lines, shapes and colors in this painting?
- Describe the people in the painting, are they like you?
- What does the background tell you? (Location, season)?
- Describe the place depicted in the painting.
- If you were to touch this painting, how would it feel? Why do you think that?
- What media did the artist use?

Relate it:

- What does this painting remind you of?
- What things do you recognize in this painting? What things seem new to you?
- What interests you the most about this particular painting?
- How is this picture different from real life?

Analyze it:

- Can you tell what style the painting is (Realistic, Abstract, Impressionism)
- Which objects seem closer to you? Further away?
- What can you tell me about the colors in this painting?
- Does the artist use them to set the mood? Does it look cold, hot, happy or dreary?
- What color is used the most?
- What is the artist trying to achieve by repeating certain colors throughout the painting? (Leading the eye, the path the eye takes).
- What do you think is the most important part of the painting?
- How does the artist draw your eye to the center of attraction?
- Does the painting show movement? How did the artist create this effect?
- Does the painting show perspective?

Interpret it:

- What do you think the title is?
- What title would you give the painting? Why?
- What type of sounds or music would come from this painting if it were real?
- What do you think is going on in the picture? Why?
- Why do you suppose the artist made this painting? What could have inspired it?

Evaluate it:

- Does this painting have good balance? How does the artist achieve it?
- Did the artist do a good or bad job? Why do you think so?
- What grade would you give this artist for this work? Why that particular grade?
- What questions would you ask the artist about this piece of work?
- What do you like about this painting? What do you not like about this painting?
- Do you think others should see this art? Why?
- Would you own this art? Where would you hang it?
- What is worth remembering about this work of art?