
Girl with a Watering Can, 1876

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1841-1919

Keywords: Color, Impressionism, Landscape, Portrait

Activity: How to Draw a Face



Getting to know the Artist:

- Renoir was born in France a very long time ago. If he were alive today, he'd be around 167 years old.
- As a little boy, he played in the streets of Paris near the Royal Palace. Sometimes he would see the Queen of France in the courtyard of the Louvre. (The Louvre is a part of the palace that was turned into a museum. A young Renoir spent hours there studying great works of art. Today some of Renoir's art hangs in the Louvre.)
- At thirteen, Renoir worked in a dish factory painting china patterns. He painted designs and patterns (repeated lines) on dishes for seven years until he became an art student.
- When Renoir started painting, people liked the old-fashioned style of art. They liked art that had a lot of details and was painted in dark colors.
- Renoir and his artist friends (like Claude Monet) liked to use brighter colors and a lot of paint. They would sometimes take their **canvas (stretched fabric that artists paint on)** outdoors so they could see the way sunlight made colors look different.
- Renoir's favorite things to paint were **portraits (paintings of people)**. *Girl with a Watering Can* is a **portrait** of a pretty child in a fancy dress holding a watering can.
- At first, people didn't like Renoir's art. They thought it was too new and too sloppy looking. But Renoir did not give up and kept painting the way he wanted to. After awhile, his art became very popular.
- Renoir was happy with his style of painting and was proud of his work. As he grew older he continued to paint, which became difficult because he also had painful arthritis. Renoir died when he was 78 years old.

Art Guide Information About "*Girl with a Watering Can*"

Renoir painted many light and charming pictures. *Girl with a Watering Can* is a great example of this sort of work. The pretty child in a fancy dress was an excellent way to attract portrait commissions. Fortunately, the portrait was Renoir's favorite subject. The deep blue of the dress, the bright red of the bow and the girl's lips, and

the cool greens of the garden come together with colorful brilliance. Rather than blend his colors, Renoir applied them in individual touches, which seems to dissolve edges and help to capture the light.

Q and A for *Girl with a Watering Can*

What is this picture of?

What is the little girl wearing? Is it fancy or play clothes?

What is she holding?

Why would she wear such fancy clothes in the garden? (To look her best for the portrait)

Key Words Defined:

- **Color** - an element of art. The hue, value and intensity of an object. The primary colors are red, blue and yellow: every color except white can be created from various blending of these three colors.
- **Impressionism** - these pieces of art were painted as if someone just took a quick look at the subject of the painting. They were usually bold colors with little detail and were usually landscapes. They often looked to be "Shimmering".
- **Landscape** - a painting or drawing showing a scene from nature, often including mountains, trees, rivers, fields and other outdoor scenery.
- **Portrait** - any work of art showing a person, several people or an animal. Portraits usually emphasize just the face but can include part or all of the body.

Activity: How to Draw a Face/Create Self Portraits

Supplies: White Drawing paper (8.5" X 11")

How to Draw a Face" Handout - copy is in the packet (from the book *Monet and the Impressionists for Kids Their Lives and Ideas* by Carol Sabbath call #'s 759.05 SAB)

Pencils

Pastels

Rulers

Classroom White Board & Markers for it

Have Children bring in a picture of themselves, perhaps their school pictures

Mirrors (optional)

Project Procedure:

1. Distribute drawing paper and pastels around the classroom (they should have their own rulers)
2. Have students pull out the pictures of themselves (or mirrors)- they may want to refer to it while they are drawing their "Self-Portrait"

3. You will probably want to use the white board to illustrate while you describe steps. Have them sketch out these steps lightly with pencil as you go thru the steps. See the "How to Draw a Face" Handout in packet. Follow Steps on handout to describe step-by-step of how to draw a face.
4. Have them finish sketching in details
5. Allow them to color in their portraits with Pastels. Explain that they can use their fingers to "Smudge" the colors together to create a softer color
6. They may sign their first names on the front of the finished piece if desired.
7. Attach parent letters to back of finished works and display as desired by the teacher! (Full names may go on the back only)
8. Sign the "Lesson Completed" Section of the Lesson Binder.