

Session Plan Art Detectives: 'Reading' a painting.



Summary for teachers –

The class are going to be 'art detectives' and learn about paintings and artists by 'reading' the paintings. The class is to look at three different painting and try to understand how/ why the artist painted the picture.

The session plan:

Theme (10 minutes) – discuss with the class how to read the painting; discussing three different methods. Split in to four groups. Rotate every ten minutes with the following areas:

Read painting one

Read painting two

Read painting three

Create your own masterpiece activity

Summary and reflect.



1. Theme

Information for the teacher:

To discuss with children - the theme you are looking at in school is *ART WORKS*. The paintings here are connected by that theme.

There are three different ways in which an artist can create the theme of their painting -

1. The first is by using their memory and imagination – so they paint what they can see in their minds.

Close your eyes for a few moments and imagine you are on the top of a hill, looking down on the countryside.

Think about the colours you can see

Weather

The smells

The sounds

What you are doing?

Open your eyes. Can tell me something about the image in your mind?

This is how some artists paint pictures

2. The second way is to paint exactly what they see. The artist would have the subject (person, fruit bowl, mountain range) in front of them throughout the painting time.

Current day artists take photographs of images that they would like to paint, but in the past people didn't have photography. In bygone days, an artist would have had to stay in front of what they were painting for a long, long time! Luckily today's artists can use photographs to help them remember what to paint.

3. The third way is to do a bit of both.

An artist might have painted a picture by looking at the subject, but may have added things from his imagination to make the painting more dramatic or happy. For example, if an artist paints a picture of some mountains they might want to add a sunset even though it was the middle of the day when it was painted.

Painting Number One.

'Blue Veil' by Percy Harland Fisher – Oil on Canvas.

Teacher information on Percy Harland Fisher -

Percy Harland Fisher was a local artist exhibiting regularly at the Royal Academy. He is best remembered in this area for painting local children and for his paintings of scenery.

Born in 1865, Fisher grew up in Middlesex. He was the youngest of three brothers who made their living as artists. Percy, like his artist brothers, Melton and Horace, studied art at Dulwich College.

In 1881 Percy's brother Melton was awarded a travelling scholarship. After travelling around Italy and Capri, he settled in Venice for 10 years and was joined by his brothers.

Percy returned to Britain in 1903 after suffering from repeated chest infections and settled in Camberley. Camberley, with its pine wood walks, was considered a healthy place to live for those with problems with their chests.

Percy took a studio in Plantation Row, Yorktown and developed a clientele from amongst the many army officers in the area. His pictures of children were particularly popular. Like many artists he also painted subjects of personal interest, for him it was the Romany families that lived on the local common. He also had a deep love of animals which often appeared in his more formal portraits.

Class investigations -

The children are to write or draw the following information -

1. What can we find out about the painting by looking at it?

What can you see?

Weather/ time of day/ colours/ subjects/ what's happening/ location/ feelings/ time period

2. As a group, talk about how you think the artist has come up with the subject. Think about the areas discussed in the teachers talk – weather, sounds, smells, mood?

3. How has the artist painted this picture? What type of 'medium' -with paint and brushes or pastels or pencil? What kind of paint – oil, watercolour.

4. This picture is an oil painting and the artist probably used different brushes to make different marks of paint. The artist didn't paint it all in one direction either but used different brush strokes, this creates texture in the picture.

5. Why do you think the artist named it Blue Veil?



Painting Number Two.

'Rushes' by Percy Harland Fisher - Oil on Board



Class investigations -

The children are to write or draw the following information -

1. What can we find out about the painting by looking at it?

What can you see?

Weather/ time of day/ colours/ subjects/ what's happening/ location/ feelings/ time period

2. As a group, talk about how you think the artist has come up with the subject. Think about the areas discussed in the teachers talk – weather, sounds, smells, mood?

3. How has the artist painted this picture? What type of 'medium' -with paint and brushes or pastels or pencil? What kind of paint – oil, watercolour.

4. This picture is an oil painting and the artist probably used different brushes to make different marks of paint. The artist didn't paint it all in one direction either but used different brush strokes, this creates texture in the picture.

5. Why do you think the artist named it Rushes?

Painting Number Three.

'Internment Camp'
George Kenner
– Watercolour



Class investigations -

The children are to write or draw the following information -

1. What can we find out about the painting by looking at it?

What can you see?

Weather/ time of day/ colours/ subjects/ what's happening/ location/ feelings/ time period

2. As a group, talk about how you think the artist has come up with the subject. Think about the areas discussed in the teachers talk – weather, sounds, smells, mood?

3. How has the artist painted this picture? What type of 'medium' -with paint and brushes or pastels or pencil? What kind of paint – oil, watercolour.

4. This picture is an oil painting and the artist probably used different brushes to make different marks of paint. The artist didn't paint it all in one direction either but used different brush strokes, this creates texture in the picture.

5. Why do you think the artist named it after a Camp?

Create your own masterpiece activity.

Look at the pictures (the picture attached). Choose your favourite painting and draw it onto a postcard, then write a message to a family member or friend about what you see in the picture and what you think the artist is 'telling' you with the art work.

