



Art A Day CHALLENGE: Drama as Big as the Sea

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Stuff you'll Need: Paper/or canvas; scrap paper, glue, paint (optional), crayons, markers, anything else you want to use! Tip: If available, use black paper with oil pastels



Words you need to know:

Seascape: a picture of the sea

The **foreground** of a seascape is the part that appears closest to the viewer, while the **background** is the area that is furthest from the viewer.

The **middleground** is the section located between both the **foreground** and **background**.

What you need to do:

LOOK: Look at this **seascape** by American artist, Thomas Birch.

Thomas Birch

American, 1779-1851

The Shipwreck, 1837

Oil on canvas, 40x 60 in

Imagine that the shipwreck and the men are not in the painting for a moment. What is the mood of the painting? What did the artist do to make the scene dramatic? Look at the foreground and notice the shape of the rocks. Look at the water hitting the rocks and allow your eyes to follow the curve of the cliff. This will then lead your eyes to small white birds in the sky. What does the color of the sky tell us? Now look at the 3 men in the **foreground** and the rest of their broken ship in the distant **background**. Imagine the sounds that you would be able to hear coming from the setting. Use one word to describe the feeling you get by the overall mood of the painting.

Imagine: Imagine this was a scene from a movie and you pressed pause at this moment. What would happen next if you pressed play? Would they be saved? If so, how would they be saved? What happens to the ship? Or, imagine you could rewind the movie. What happened right before this moment? How did their boat get shipwrecked?

MAKE: Gather your art making materials. Consider creating a diorama with an old shoe box scrap paper and even toys! Maybe you want to use watercolors or markers. It's up to you and whatever supplies you have on hand! Create a **seascape** and show us what you imagine happens next or what happened right before this moment! Did the rocks turn into a rock monster and smash the boat? Did a mermaid super hero save the men? Maybe the sun comes out and the ocean becomes calm? Use your imagination! Show us how wild your imagination can get! If you are an abstract artist, capture the emotion you have from the perspective of the shipwrecked men. If you are creating a diorama, how will you show **background, middleground, and foreground**?

Writing connection: Create a poem about this scene (that you created or in the above painting). Take on the perspective of a character in the painting. How are they feeling, what do they see? What is happening around them? Write it and post it!

SHARE: POST your creation in the comments on FACEBOOK and Tag @WCMFA on Instagram and use the hashtag # ARTaDayCHALLENGE