

Art A Day CHALLENGE: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Stuff you'll need: Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea!

LOOK at this painting of a woman's profile. It is called Gertrude of Wyoming and it shares the title of a very well-known poem. Pay attention to the landscape that surrounds her. Notice how her skin and white dress seem to glow against the dark background. Check out the poem

THINK Find a poem that speaks to you. Here is a list of poems every kid should read: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/88782/essential-childrens-collection-classic-poetry> After each stanza or verse, stop reading a picture in your mind what you've just read.

MAKE Select a verse that really stood out to you. Create a drawing, painting, photograph, sculpture, sidewalk chalk drawing, or collage that represents how you interpreted or imagined the poem. Create what you see in your mind as you were reading!

SHARE your creation and the poem you created!

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Gertrude of Wyoming; A Pennsylvanian Tale

(1809) is a romantic epic in [Spenserian stanza](#) composed by Scottish poet [Thomas Campbell](#) (1777–1844).^[1] The poem was well received, but not a financial success for its author.

The setting of the poem is the [Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania](#) and the [massacre](#) that occurred there on July 3, 1778. On that day, more than three hundred American Revolutionaries died at the hands of [Loyalists](#) and their [Iroquois](#) allies. At the time, it was widely believed that the attack was led by [Joseph Brant](#); in the poem, Brant is described as the "Monster Brant" because of the atrocities committed, although it was later determined that Brant had not actually been present. The poem has been criticized for other historical inaccuracies (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>).

The poem begins:

**On Susquehanna's side,
fair Wyoming!
Although the wild-flower
on thy ruin'd wall,
And roofless homes, a
sad remembrance bring,
Of what thy gentle
people did befall;
Yet thou wert once the
loveliest land of all
That see the Atlantic
wave their morn restore.
Sweet land! may I thy
lost delights recall,
And paint thy Gertrude in
her bowers of yore,
Whose beauty was the
love of Pennsylvania's
shore!**

To read the rest go to
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/59788/59788-h/59788-h.htm#GERTRUDE_OF_WYOMING_1