Art A Day   CHALLENGE: Reading Art

What's Your Story?

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

FA1: Analyze structure and context of various artistic works.

Analyzing the structures and contexts of various artistic works provides insight into the creator's intent, and informs performance or interpretation

How can the viewer "read" a work of art as text?

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: Read through the challenge to decide…the materials you use are up to you!

Words to know:

Narrative art is art that tells a story.

LOOK at the art work in the Middle School Art section from the 1st ever, Virtual Washington County Public Schools Art Exhibition hosted by the Washington County Museum of Fine Art, 2020.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vTz14JmZ_GyyG7S-eJRCosolSkf1OqRGzkvShavv-PLLF21LJ6oIw_NfAEQuTtnjBUxcLVIS3w7gbPf/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g781e7a9aaf_0_0.

Select an art work that tells you a story. This could be art that has characters with thoughtful expressions, interesting settings, or shows an event. Use clues that the artist has given you to understand the "story" that is being told. Why do you consider this artwork to be **narrative** art?

Jaiden Pasquarello
Grade 7
School, Smithsburg Middle
Teacher, Stacy Maginnis

THINK about the expression on the faces of people/animals/characters in the artwork. Think about the mood of the setting. What context clues did the artist give you to allow you to interpret this mood?

For example: Notice the thoughtful expression on the woman's face in Jaiden Pasquarello's art work shown above. The artist has also included thought bubble that says, "I wonder". This art work, reminiscent or Roy Lichtenstein's signature comic book style, leads the viewer to question what the character is thinking about.

How can the viewer "read" a work of art as text?

Thomas Birch gave the viewer many clues to tell this story. The title, *The Shipwreck* (1837), gives the viewer a clear idea of what the story is about. The sky is dark and stormy, the waves are crashing on the broken ship. The viewer is immediately drawn to the experience of the shop crew who are struggle to hang onto the harsh boulders.

CREATE artwork that tells a story; create **narrative** art! Tell a story, event, create a character, or create a setting for a story using visual art making techniques. How will you use art making techniques, elements of art, and design to give the viewer visual clues so they will be able to "ready" your artwork?

Writing Journal Prompt: What is the **narrative** you are presenting visually? By describing your visual clues, write the story your artwork is telling the viewers.

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