Art A Day Challenge: Illustrate & Overcome

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

FA2: Apply criteria to evaluate and interpret a variety of artistic works.

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

How do artists communicate intent? 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

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Stuff you’ll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

Words to know:
Illustration is a visual representation of text or an idea.

LOOK at the painting that is getting fitted for glasses in the eye doctor’s, or the oculist’s, office. Look at the clothes the boy is wearing and the objects he is holding. Where do you think the boy would rather be? What clues in the painting gave you that information?

This painting was created by Norman Rockwell, an American artist known for his Illustrations on the cover of a magazine called Saturday Evening Post. Although he painted many paintings besides the magazine covers, he was known for his story telling style. Rockwell was known for visually telling a story by creating everyday people in everyday situations, often representing the imperfection of childhood moments like the one we see here!

THINK about how the boy in the picture must feel as he is getting glasses for the first time when he probably would rather play ball! We can assume he could see much better after this appointment, even though he doesn’t look too happy in this moment. Think about a time you had to do something you didn’t want to do... Was there a positive outcome?

CREATE an illustration that represents a time you had to do something you didn’t want to do, but you’re glad you did it! Show how you felt when you had to face the obstacle. Or, represent how it felt to finally overcome, or find a solution to, the problem!

Writing Journal Prompt: Write about your inner dialogue before and after the event. What types of things did you say to yourself to push you to overcome the obstacle? How did you congratulate yourself when you finally did it?

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Norman Rockwell
American, 1894-1978
The Oculist, 1956