

At Home with the DIA

Writing & Discussion Activities

5 Senses

Explore the work of art visually by asking, *what's going on in this picture?* Once visually explored, begin to think about using senses other than sight to enter the image in a new way. For example, what would you smell if you were in this scene? What would you feel/touch (you can follow up with what would that feel like – rough, soft, silky, itchy, warm, etc.)? What would you hear if you were there? What would you taste (you can follow up with, describe that – salty, sweet, smoky, fresh, etc.)?

Objects:

[*The Cottagers*](#), 1788, Joshua Reynolds, English; oil on canvas

[*Watson and the Shark*](#), 1782, John Singleton Copley, American; oil on canvas

[*Detroit Industry, North Wall*](#), 1932, Diego Rivera, Mexican; fresco

[*Fire in a Haystack*](#), 1856, Jules Breton, French; oil on canvas

Point of View

Explore the work of art visually by asking, *what's going on in this picture?* Once visually explored, begin to look at different people, animals, and objects, and think about the story from that perspective. For example, in *Watson and the Shark* we learn the story of young Brook Watson who was attacked by a shark and lost his leg when swimming in the harbor. His shipmates rescued him, and he survived, growing up to become Lord Mayor of London, England and tell the story of his attack. Consider the story now from the viewpoint of one of the rescuers or...from the shark!

Objects:

[*Watson and the Shark*](#), 1782, John Singleton Copley, American; oil on canvas

[*The Cottagers*](#), 1788, Joshua Reynolds, English; oil on canvas

[*Detroit Industry, North Wall*](#), 1932, Diego Rivera, Mexican; fresco

Before and After

Explore the work of art visually by asking, *what's going on in this picture?* Once visually explored, think about the story that took place before this scene, and then after this scene. Write or draw what happened.

Objects:

[*The Tunnel*](#), 1968, George Segal, American; plaster and mixed media

[*The Cottagers*](#), 1788, Joshua Reynolds, English; oil on canvas

[*Watson and the Shark*](#), 1782, John Singleton Copley, American; oil on canvas

[*Fire in a Haystack*](#), 1856, Jules Breton, French; oil on canvas