

2010 ARTclicks!
LOOKING AND INTERPRETING ACTIVITIES: K – 12TH

Interactive activities to encourage close observation and interpretations from varying perspectives:

These may be adapted for use with any artwork by Julie Blackmon, Kat Wilson, or Ananda Balingit-LeFils. Works by these artists will be on display in the Baum Gallery for the 2010-2011 school year and images are included on the ARTclicks! website for lessons in the classroom at K-12 grade levels.

1. Personality Profile

- Select a work of art, preferably a portrait
- Ask student to complete the *Personality Profile* worksheet based on the work of art.
- Present profiles and discuss. Have students support answers with visual clues

Extension:

- Have students write biographies or newspaper articles about their characters and present.

2. Different Perspectives

- While viewing a work of art, student selects one object to characterize.
- Student writes a letter or postcard from selected object's perspective
- Include the proper date, location from which it is sent, and a closure

Tips:

- Make sure to include colorful descriptions of what your object experiences
- Details might include where the object came from, what they are going to do next, etc
- Activity can be completed by individuals or in groups

Extension:

- Create an illustration for the front side of the postcards

Alternative perspective

- Students write the letter from the chosen object to inform the people in the photo that the object has gone on a short trip.
- Include where it went, what has happened to it so far, where it is now, and when it hopes to return, and any other additional thoughts it wishes to share.

3. Looking Together

- Divide student into small groups with selected work of art
- Each group member writes a statement or sentence about the selected work of art
- Within each group, read each statement and collaboratively arrange and edit the statements to form a narrative or poem.
- Share interpretations

Tip: Have students justify interpretations with visual clues

Extension: Compare the interpretation to the artist's statement or art historian perspective.

4. Tell Me a Story

- Select a work of art
- Brainstorm the beginning, middle, and/or end of a story relating to the work of art
- Write, tell, or act out the story
- Read or perform the story

Tip: Encourage students to use visual clues to support components of the story

Extension: Compare different stories written in response to the same art work

(These lesson activities are adaptations from a very practical and useful book titled, *Experience Art: A Handbook for Teaching and Learning with Works of Art*, by N. Berry, L.M.D. Brockman, C.L. Herbrich, A.M. Hilborn, A.E. Lewis, & E.B. Reese. Crystal Productions, 1998.)