

Sample Questions

Questions

Use these questions as a guide in preparing your presentation. Remember to ask 'open' questions i.e. questions that cannot be answered with simply a yes or no. Open questions usually begin with What? When? Where? Why? Who? How....?

Questions relating to the subject matter:

1. What is the subject of the painting?
2. What aspect of the story is the artist trying to tell?
3. What kind of movement/activity can you see?
4. What might have happened just before this scene?
5. What do you think will happen next?
6. Who are the people in the print?
7. When do you think they would have lived?
8. How would you describe the location or setting?

Relating to the senses:

1. What sounds would you hear if you were inside this picture?
2. What might you smell?
3. How do you think the fruit tastes?
4. How would the clothes feel?
5. If this picture made music, what kind of music would you hear? Why?

Relating to Art Elements:

1. What art element is the artist using in this painting?
2. What kinds of shapes /lines/ textures/ etc did the artist use?
3. How would you describe the lines in the painting? Thick? Thin? Fuzzy? Curved?
4. How would you describe the different textures in the painting?
5. How did the artist show space (depth /distance) in this painting?

Relating to Art Principles:

1. What is the first thing you notice in this picture? (focal point/emphasis)
2. Does the painting feel heavier on one side than the other? (balance)
3. How often are colors repeated? (Repetition)
4. What else can you find in the picture that is repeated? (repetition)
5. What is the path the artist has created for your eye to move through this picture? (movement/ rhythm)
6. Has the artist deliberately made something in the picture bigger? Why? (proportion)
7. What has the artist done to make this picture interesting to look at? (variety)

Relating to color

1. What kinds of color did the artist use? Bright/Dull? Dark/ Light? Warm/Cool?
2. How do the colors contribute to the feeling or mood of the painting?
3. If the artist had used a different color how would it have changed the painting?

Questions for portraits

1. What do you do before you have your picture taken at school? Why?
2. Why do you have your picture taken?
3. Why do you think the person in the reproduction had their picture painted?
4. What do you think the artist wants you to know about this person?
5. What do the clothes in this picture tell you about the person? Rich? Poor?
6. Is there anything in this picture that tells you what this person likes to do?
7. Is there anything in this picture that tells you how this person made a living?
8. How do you think this person feels in this picture?
9. What makes you think they feel that way?
10. How would a painting of you be different from a photograph of you?

Questions for landscapes

1. If you could walk into this picture where would you start?
2. How does the landscape change as you walk?
3. Are there any people you might meet along the way?
4. What are they doing?
5. Are there any animals or birds you might see?
6. What kinds of things might you smell in this painting?
7. Is there a place near where you live that might smell the same?
8. What kind of day is it in this painting? What time of day, year? What tells you this?
9. How do you think you would feel if you were in this painting? Hungry? Cold? Tired?
10. Can you think of a place near where you live that reminds you of this painting? What one thing about that place is similar to something in this painting?

General questions

1. If you could meet the artist, what questions would you ask about this painting?
2. What would you name this picture?
3. If you could own this painting, where would you hang it?
4. Why do you think the artist painted this picture?
8. If you could change one thing about this picture what would it be?