
ART SMART

1st Grade / February

THEME:
Portraits

WORKS:

1. Currier and Ives, *The Little Pets*
2. Pablo Picasso, *Portrait de Marie-Therese*
3. Mary Cassatt, *Spring: Margot Standing in A Garden*
4. Claude Monet, *Coin d'appartement (Corner of apartment)*
5. Paul Kane, *Caw-Wacham*



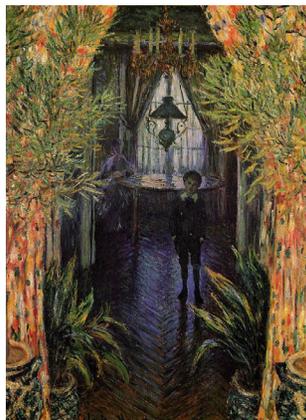
1.



2.



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4.



5.

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Artwork:

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Background:

Before the invention of the camera and photography in the late nineteenth century, the drawings and paintings that artists made provided our only example of what historical figures and ordinary citizens looked like.

Pictures of people have a special name: Portraits

Portraits are images of people which tell us about the personalities and lives of the people depicted.

Currier and Ives, *The Little Pets*

This painting is by an unknown artist and is considered to be painted in the style known as folk art. Folk art is often flat and two-dimensional, with bright colors and little shading.

Is this a little girl or a grownup?

How can you tell? (Draw attention to the size of the larger cat and the bench as important clues.)

Where is she sitting?

Does it look like a nice place to be?

What is she holding in her arms?

Does the kitten look like it wants to squirm away, or does it seem happy to be where it is?

What do you think the big cat is thinking?

If this little girl could talk to us, what do you think she would say?

Pablo Picasso, *Portrait de Marie-Therese*

This is a portrait of a woman named Marie-Therese. It was painted by a very famous artist whose name was Pablo Picasso. His father was an art teacher and taught him to paint and draw at an early age. In this portrait Picasso uses mostly blue and yellow pastel tones, and round flowing forms.

Was Marie-Therese inside or outside when Picasso painted her portrait?

Is she standing or sitting?

Where is her chair?

What was Marie-Therese wearing the day Picasso painted her portrait?

Do you like her clothes?
Do you think she is happy?
What is she thinking about?
What color are her eyes?

Mary Cassatt, *Spring: Margot Standing in A Garden*

This little girl's name is Margot. Do you know why I know her name? The artist who painted this picture, a woman named Mary Cassatt, tells us in the title of the painting: *Spring: Margot Standing in the a Garden*. Motherhood is a favorite theme in Cassatt's work and she often paints young woman and children in relaxed poses.

How can you tell where Margot is?
How old do you think Margot is? About your age?
Do you think Margot would like someone to play with?
What would you do if you could join Margot in this big garden on such a beautiful day?
Margot is wearing a fancy hat and dress. Would you wear fancy clothes to play outside?
What do you think she is looking at?
Does this look like a formal portrait painting or is more like a casual snapshot we would take today with a camera?

Claude Monet, *Coin d'appartement (Corner of apartment)*

Claude Monet devoted his life to painting and had a passion for nature. He was fascinated by light and water and how to depict them in his paintings. This painting is an unusual subject matter for Monet, since it is a picture of an inside space. The boy in the painting is his son Camille and this is where they lived.

What is the boy in this picture doing?
Can you stand the way he is standing?
We can't see his face very well, because he is so far away inside a room that seems a bit dark, but we can tell something about the way he feels just by the way he is standing.
Is he happy? Sad? Bored? Angry?
Does he want to go outside and play?
If you look very closely, you can find one more person in this painting. Who do you think it is?
What are the woman and the boy saying to one another?
What do you think happened next?

Paul Kane, *Caw-Wacham*

This is a portrait of a mother and her baby. They are native north americans and are standing in a forest. It must be a cool day because they are bundled up in warm clothing.

Do you remember when you were a baby?
Did your parents sometimes carry you on their backs or in a sling?

This baby is on a cradle board so that he can sleep safely while his mother carries him.

Why do you think the baby has this cloth over his eyes?

Look at the necklaces the baby is wearing.

Can you tell where the baby's feet are?

Do you think this baby feels safe and secure in his mother's arms?

What do you think the mother is looking at?

She's looking away from us at something that is off to the side, so we can only see part of her face. That is called a profile.

If I look straight at you, how many of my eyes can you see? And you can see both my cheeks and both my ears, and all of my nose and mouth.

What happens when I turn sideways?

Now how many of my eyes can you see?

Does my nose, mouth and chin look different?

Suggested Project: "Picasso Portraits"

This project requires a little extra time.

1. Copy class photo, cut out faces, and tape each child's photo to their desk.
2. Give each child a piece of card stock with a large oval lightly drawn in pencil. Each oval should be divided in half vertically with a light pencil line.
3. Show the children the difference between a profile and a straight on face using the enclosed chart.
4. Using pencil, have the children draw features on one half of the face in profile, and the other half in of the face straight on.
5. Color in face with oil pastels. **NO BLACK**
6. Outline face/features in black.

* could also probably use markers.