

Fifth Grade

Title: "An Afternoon at La Grande Jatte" (1884)

Artist: George Seurat (1859-1891) France

6'8"x10'10"

EALR'S: Arts

- 1.1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes- geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).
- 1.2- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).
- 1.3- Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.
- 1.4- Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.
- 2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.
- 2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.
- 3.1- Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.
- 3.2- Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.
- 3.3- Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.
- 4.2- Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.
- 4.3- Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.
- 4.4- Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

Text:

The effect of the sunlight represented in Seurat's pointillism style of brush stroke is dazzling. The entire composition is created with dots of pure color. No colors were mixed on the pallet- instead the color dots are put next to each other to create color blends. To plan this composition, Seurat did twenty some preliminary drawings and thirty-eight painting sessions, of which this is the last version.

Questions:

1. What is happening here?
2. What time of year is it and what time of day? (Summer, late afternoon, notice the shadows, colors of leaves, grass, and sunlight).
3. What details add interest and perspective to this composition? (Pet dog and monkey in the foreground, sailboats, perspective with people along the river getting smaller as one looks farther into the picture).
4. What colors are used to set the mood? (Warm-red, yellow, yellow-green).
5. What is the focal point and how is it accented? (Mother with umbrella and daughter in the middle of the picture. Lighter colors are used to portray them, with the little girl being the only major white area. The horizontal shadow in the foreground accents the focal point and contributes to the feeling of a slow, calm, peaceful day).
6. If the mother's umbrella were white would it change the composition? (Would draw attention away from the little girl. The red adds to the overall warmth of the painting).