

Fifth Grade

Title: "Fur Traders Descending the Missouri"

Artist: George Caleb Bingham (1811-1879) American

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 flatboat in the foreground stands out in sharp silhouette against a background of hazy landscape detail. Bingham's work in characterization is well illustrated in the contrasting faces of his two traders, one rosy happy-the other serious. Note the dynamic triangle formed by the long canoe and its occupants in this work. The mood colors, subject matter, and varied textures all make this a good discussion painting. This work has an unforgettable quality of peaceful space and hushed quiet.

Questions:

1. What is happening here? Are they going fast? What movement can you see? (Water moving by the deadhead stick in the right foreground).
2. Do you see scenes like this today? Why did Bingham paint this?
3. What is the animal at the front of the canoe? How does the animal help the composition (balance). What would it look like if the animal was at the other end of the canoe?
4. How does the artist make this look so real? (Exact detail, light and shadow effect, water reflections, tiny brush strokes).
5. What techniques has he used to create the mood of the painting? Choice of colors, (almost neutral), types of lines and color planes (mostly horizontal), attention to detail and realism, the textures he's created (smooth).