

First Grade

Title: "Snap the Whip" (1872)

Artist: Winslow Homer (1836-1910) American landscape and portrait artist

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: This work can be used as a study of "perspective", and landscape, as well as a form of portrait art. "When I select a thing carefully, I paint it exactly as it appears", said Homer. Late on an autumn afternoon, he apparently came across this group of farm children at play after school or on a holiday. In this completely happy, natural painting, we can hear the sound of their young voices, feel the warmth of the sun, and smell the mountain air. The landscape in this painting is Impressionistic and generalized, as it would have seemed to the artist intent on his realistic portrayal of the boys at play.

Questions:

How can you tell that some things are closer and some things are farther away? (Close-larger, more detail, brighter, toward bottom of the picture. Background-smaller, fainter, less detail, muted, placed closer to the top of mid picture plane).

1. What do the colors make you feel? (The predominant color tones are warm, happy, fun, exciting, red. This is the fall of the year when school starts. Notice the children are bare foot.
2. What is happening? (This is a perfectly balanced and whole composition. The flying wedge of a triangle formed by the boys running is used to create the "focal point". The largest boy at the center of the painting is at the apex of this triangle. This technique is used again and again in art to balance the composition, and to denote action, strength, and drama.
3. What kinds of lines do you see? (Homers paintings are filled with action, and this is enhanced by many repeated diagonal lines. The diagonal is used in compositions to portray strength, power and action).