

Fourth Grade

Title: "Before the Start" (1950)

Artist: Charles Lapicque (1898-1988) French

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 polychromatic color theme of this painting sets the mood of excitement and reflects the mood of exhilaration felt before a horse race begins. Color and its effects were most important to Lapicque. Many of the curving strokes that outline the figures are also in bright colors. The artist has repeated shapes to create the feeling of movement.

Questions:

1. Is this a rainbow? How many different colors do you see? (This is called polychromatic, or many colors). Are these colors happy, exciting, scary? What is really happening here?
2. Is this realism? Can you find four horses? More? Are the things far away? Is everyone heading in the same direction?
3. Look for repeated shapes. (That is a technique used to accent the feeling of motion in a picture).
4. Some of the lines are depicted in bright colors. Find some lines that you find interesting. Are there many different kinds? (These add to the excitement and feeling of motion too).