

Seeing Stories Elementary (PreK-5th Grade)

“Seeing Stories” encourages students to find stories in works of art. The program focuses on three major narrative elements: character, setting, and plot. Students investigate works of art using Artful Thinking Routines and activities from Harvard’s Project Zero, guided by a museum educator. Activities include using sensory details to describe the setting of a work of art, kinetic exercises exploring a character’s emotions, telling stories inspired by artworks, and more!

Essential Question:

What stories do artists tell in their works of art?

Learning Targets:

1. Students identify narrative elements, such as character, setting, and plot, in works of art.
2. Students compare narrative elements in visual art to elements of literature.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify characters portrayed in a work of art.
- Students can describe the setting of a work of art.
- Students can infer the story implied by a work of art, supporting their answer with evidence from the artwork.

Standards Alignment

Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts

Kindergarten

- RL.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Confirm understanding of . . . information presented through other media by asking and answering questions about key details

1st Grade

- RL.3 Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Ask and answer questions about key details in . . . information presented through other media

2nd Grade

- RL.1 Ask and answer questions such as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text
- RL.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from . . . information presented through other media

3rd Grade

- RL. 1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers
- RL.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Determine the main ideas and supporting details of . . . information presented in diverse media and formats

4th Grade

- RL.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
- RL.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Paraphrase portions of . . . information presented in diverse media and formats

5th Grade

- RL.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text
- SL.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- SL.2 Summarize . . . information presented in diverse media and formats

Washington State Visual Arts

Kindergarten

- Re8.1.K(a) Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details
- Cn11.1.K(a) Identify a purpose of an artwork

1st Grade

- Re8.1.1(a) Interpret art by . . . identifying the characteristics of form.

2nd Grade

- Re8.1.2(a) Interpret art by . . . describing relevant subject matter and characteristics of form

3rd Grade

- Re8.1.3(a) Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, characteristics of form, and mood

4th Grade

- Re7.2.4(a) Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages
- Re8.1.4(a) Interpret art by . . . analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media

5th Grade

- Re7.1.5(a) Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others

- Re8.1.5(a) Interpret art by analyzing characteristics of form and structure, contextual information, subject matter, visual elements, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed