

Lesson Plan

EUP ISD Workshop June 27-29, 2011

Analyzing, Interpreting, and Evaluating the Painting of Winslow Homer

Lesson Overview:

This lesson is to be used as part of the Art History component of visual art studies within the VPAA. In the VPAA, students must show proficiency in the areas of interpretation, analysis, and evaluation as well as having a working content vocabulary. Winslow Homer is a relatively familiar American painter for students to study, therefore, his paintings lend themselves easily to the teaching and practice of these skills. Students will first be exposed to Winslow Homer's life and times. The genre of his painting will then be discussed, and students will review the process of interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating art, as well as useful content vocabulary. Breaking into small groups, the students will discuss two to three other paintings by Winslow Homer, reporting to the entire class when they finish. Finally, using their research skills, individuals will interpret, analyze, and evaluate two Winslow Homer paintings of their choice, turning in written responses when they are finished. These responses will be assessed through rubric-based evaluations by the teacher. Each student will be given group and individual grades.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- tell about Winslow Homer's life and times.
- recognize, and tell about, the genre of painting that Homer used.
- recognize familiar paintings by Winslow Homer.
- work in a group to interpret, analyze, and evaluate paintings.
- research Winslow Homer's paintings on their own.
- interpret, analyze, and evaluate two of Homer's paintings

Standards: Michigan Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Credit Guidelines

Strand I: Create

Strand II: Perform/Present

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P.2 - Demonstrate skillful use of appropriate vocabularies, tools, instruments and technologies of the visual, performing, or applied arts discipline.

Strand III: Respond

R.1 - Observe, describe, reflect, analyze, and interpret works of the visual, performing, or applied arts.

R.3 - Describe, analyze, and understand the visual, performing, or applied arts in historical, contemporary, social, cultural, environmental, and/or economic contexts.

R.4 - Experience, analyze, and reflect on the variety of meanings that can be derived from the results of the artistic/creative process.

Time Required: 2-3 days (50-minute sessions)

Size of the class, grade level, or the amount of discussion generated dictates how much time is spent on the lesson.

Recommended Grade Level(s): High School (Grades 9-12)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Topic(s): Arts & Culture

Era: Early 20th Century

Preparation:

Materials:

- Primary Sources Evaluation Worksheet
- Laptop or other projection device
- White board
- Color posters, slides, and power point slides of Winslow Homer paintings
- Information about Homer's life and times
- Individual computers for research
- Rubric for individual responses
- Library Card or Michigan Driver's License (to access Michigan E-library)

Resources: Library of Congress Resources

Title: A Northeaster

Digital ID: (digital file from intermediary roll film) det 4a26243

Reproduction Number: LC-D416-570 (b&w glass neg.)

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Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26243>

Title: The Fog Warning

Reproduction Number: LC-D416-238 (b&w glass neg.)

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26076>

Title: Hudson River Logging

Digital ID: (digital file from intermediary roll film) det 4a26572 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26572>

Reproduction Number: LC-D416-29943 (b&w glass neg.)

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26572>

Title: Ship Building, Gloucester Harbor

Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-132923 (b&w film copy neg.)

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c32923>

Title: Bathers Beware

[New-York tribune. \(New York \[N.Y.\], August 21, 1910, Page 8, Image 20\)](#)

Persistent Link <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1910-08-21/ed-1/seq-20/>

Procedure:

Activities Lesson Procedure:

1. Class will learn about Winslow Homer, his times, and the genre/purpose for his art compositions. (www.winslowhomer.org)
2. Class will review content vocabulary (space, line, perspective, vanishing point, color scheme, composition) as it relates to one Winslow Homer example painting.

Small Group Study:

3. Breaking into teacher-directed small groups, students will view paintings and other works by Homer, as a class. They will then analyze the **elements of art** and **composition** contained in each sample painting as a group, sharing conclusions with the whole class.
4. After assessing 2-3 paintings in groups, using the Primary Source Assessment Tool, the element of **color** will be added to the discussion in another 2-3 paintings.
5. When students are relatively proficient at analysis of the pieces, the element of **interpretation** will be introduced.

6. Students will review previous pieces of Winslow Homer's art to interpret general contents and purpose, as a whole class, based upon Homer's life, genre, and times.
7. When students demonstrate understanding, the teacher will add the element of **evaluation** to the lesson. Students will evaluate representative pieces of Winslow Homer's art to determine if it is valid, or fulfills its purpose to the viewer.

Individual Study:

8. Students will be assigned the work of researching to find two (2) Winslow Homer paintings for individual study: interpretation, analysis, and evaluation. Each student will be given a copy of the teacher-generated rubric for reference. Students will use personal laptops, or class computers to access the Michigan E-library for reference. (Mel.org)

Directions: Access Mel.org (library card needed)
Go to Data Bases
Access Camio
Search "Winslow Homer"

9. Students will submit their completed work, to be assessed by a teacher-generated rubric.
10. Each student will receive a group assessment grade (teacher observation), and an individual grade for the class work.

Evaluation:

1. Group interaction and presentation in class (Teacher evaluates participation and discussion for each student contributor.)
2. Individual interpretation, analysis, and evaluation
- written/ rubric-based

See attached rubric (Rubistar)

Analysis of A Work of Art : Winslow Homer

Teacher Name: **Joanna Izzard**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Description	Makes a complete and detailed description of the subject matter and/or elements seen in a work.	Makes a detailed description of most of the subject matter and/or elements seen in a work.	Makes a detailed description of some of the subject matter and/or elements seen in a work.	Descriptions are not detailed or complete.
Analysis	Accurately describes several dominant elements or principles used by the artist and accurately relates how they are used by the artist to reinforce the theme, meaning, mood, or feeling of the artwork.	Accurately describes a couple of dominant elements and principles used by the artist and accurately relates how these are used by the artist to reinforce the theme, meaning, mood, or feeling of the artwork.	Describes some dominant elements and principles used by the artist, but has difficulty describing how these relate to the meaning or feeling of the artwork.	Has trouble picking out the dominant elements.
Interpretation	Forms a somewhat reasonable hypothesis about the symbolic or metaphorical meaning and is able to support this with evidence from the work.	Student identifies the literal meaning of the work.	Student can relate how the work makes him/her feel personally.	Student finds it difficult to interpret the meaning of the work.
Evaluation	Uses multiple criteria to judge the artwork, such as composition, expression, creativity, design, communication of ideas.	Uses 1-2 criteria to judge the artwork.	Tries to use aesthetic criteria to judge artwork, but does not apply the criteria accurately.	Evaluates work as good or bad based on personal taste.

Date Created: Jun 28, 2011 09:17 pm (CDT)

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Image	Description	Citation	URL
	<p>[A northeaster]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital ID: (digital file from intermediary roll film) det 4a26243 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26243 • Reproduction Number: LC-D416-570 (b&w glass neg.) • Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA 	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-D416-570 (b&w glass neg.)</p>	<p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26243</p> <p>Permanent URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994023091/PP/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: The fog warning • Creator(s): Homer, Winslow, 1836-1910, artist • Related Names: Detroit Publishing Co., copyright claimant Detroit Publishing Co., publisher • Date Created/Published: c[etween 1900 and 1912] • Medium: 1 negative : glass ; 8 x 10 in. • Reproduction Number: LC-D416-238 (b&w glass neg.) • Call Number: LC-D416-238 <P&P> [P&P] • Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction Number: LC-D416-238 (b&w glass neg.) 	<p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26076</p> <p>Permanent URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994022219/PP/</p>
	<p>[Hudson River logging]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital ID: (digital file from intermediary roll film) det 4a26572 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a26572 • Reproduction Number: LC-D416-29943 (b&w glass neg.) • Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction Number: LC-D416-29943 (b&w glass neg.) 	<p>Permanent URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994023381/PP/</p>

	<p>Picture in newspaper, warning bathers about undertows and swimming dangers. Purpose of painting: public service.</p>	<p>New-York tribune. (New York [N.Y.]), August 21, 1910, Page 8, Image 20</p>	<p>Persistent Link http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1910-08-21/ed-1/seq-20/ *If link does not open, copy and paste URL into a new browser window.</p>
	<p><i>Another study of composition.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Ship-building, Gloucester Harbor / drawn by Winslow Homer ; W.H. • Creator(s): Homer, Winslow, 1836-1910, artist • Date Created/Published: 1873 October 11. • Medium: 1 print : wood engraving. • Summary: Print shows children building model ships in the foreground at a shipyard while men build a ship in the background. • Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-132923 (b&w film copy neg.) • Rights Advisory: No known restrictions on publication. • Call Number: Illus. in AP2.H32 1873 (Case Y) [P&P] • Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA 	<p>b&w film copy neg.</p> <p>Permanent URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c32923</p>

LOC Resource Table
Joanna Izzard