

Writing Exercise:

Creative Writing Artwork Exercise:

Bring in a print or painting for the class to view. Your art teacher will most likely have several good ones. You do not need to know anything about the particular painting. This is not an art history lesson.

Place it on the board where everyone can see it. If it's small, have the class gather in a semicircle around it.

1. Class Discussion:

Ask the class what interests them in the painting. Ask them what they notice. How might this piece of art inspire a piece of writing? What could we consider in the painting? As they respond, fill up the board with their comments. After they respond, see if the questions below might also be helpful to stimulate their thinking.

Consider the following questions before you start to write. These questions are meant to inspire your writing. One should not answer them all or in any particular order.

Some ideas to consider as you think about the painting:

Color

Light / darkness / shadows

Five senses

Landscape / setting

Action

What just happened?

What is happening now?

What is about to happen?

Who is in this painting?

What is the mood of this painting?

What is the weather like?

Do you have other questions about this painting?

What do you wonder about?

Can you use figurative language—simile/metaphor — to describe an image?

What is the story behind this painting?

What are the shapes?

Does this painting conjure a memory from your own life?

What draws you into this painting?

What do you like most about this painting?

Is there humor in this painting? Where?

2. Writing:

Write a poem to sit side by side with this painting.