THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM
COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS
STILL LIFE: EVERYDAY OBJECTS

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinion.

OVERVIEW
Students will analyze and discuss still life paintings.

MATERIALS NEEDED
- Image of Still Life: Basket of Apples, Pear, Walnuts, and Knife (WAM 37.1525)
- Image of Still Life with Wine, Water, Fruit, and Nuts (WAM 37.1664)
- Image of “Vanitas” Still Life (WAM 37.682)
- Image of Still Life (WAM 37.139)

GUIDING QUESTION
- What is a still life? What can a still life teach us about the past?

ENGAGEMENT
A still life is a painting, photograph, drawing, or sculpture of objects collected and arranged together in a specific way. The objects chosen to create a still life may have special personal, cultural, spiritual, philosophical, or societal meaning. Still life themes and the arrangement or depiction of objects along with the lighting, color, or technique of illustrating the objects can evoke a wide variety of ideas and emotions.

Some of the earliest still life images were created to decorate homes and tombs in the Ancient World. In the 14th century, still lifes depicting everyday objects were included in religious wall paintings. There was a increase in the creation of still life painting in the 16th and 17th centuries as artists became more interested in observing and realistically representing details and environments. The rise of a wealthy middle class who desired art to decorate their homes and an increasing demand for non-religious subjects in painting other than portraiture also contributed to the increase in the creation of still life paintings. In the 18th century, artists continued to refine their painting techniques and during the 19th century, still life drawings, prints, and watercolors came to be considered as major finished artworks that were displayed in official exhibition venues. Works on paper even began to compete with oil paintings in value, status, and appeal to collectors.

LOOKING AT THE OBJECT WITH STUDENTS
- Compare and contrast the still life paintings. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Describe and discuss the elements of art: What lines, shapes, colors and textures are used to illustrate the still life?
- Describe and discuss the still life composition. How are the objects arranged? How has the artist created a sense of space?
- Describe and discuss the objects included in the still life. What objects do you see? Why do you think they were included in the still life? What do you think these objects can tell us about the artist and time period?

EXTENSION
- Research still life works of art in different mediums throughout history. What do the images tell us about the time periods and people who created them?
- Create and capture your own still life. What will the objects you include tell the viewer about your life? What materials or techniques will you use to illustrate your still life?
- Explore 19th-Century works of art from the Walters’ collection online.

thewalters.org/teachers/resources/commoncore/
Still Life: Basket of Apples, Pear, Walnuts, and Knife, Léon Bonvin (French, 1834-1866)
Still Life with Wine, Water, Fruit, and Nuts, Léon Bonvin (French, 1834-1866)
Still Life, Johann Willem Preyer (German, 1803-1889)
"Vanitas" Still Life, Adam Bernaert (Dutch, 1660-1669)