

COMMON CORE CONNECTION: WHAT'S THE DRAMA ALL ABOUT?

WORK OF ART: *Scipio Africanus Freeing Massiva*, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 1719–21

COMMON CORE CONNECTION: Reading English Language Arts and Literacy

Craft and Structure: Analyze the structure of texts (i.e. art), including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text relate to each other and the whole.

OVERVIEW

Students will examine a painting and describe the overall structure (e.g. chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of the event depicted in the scene.

ACTIVITY

- ❶ Print the image for your students or project it on a screen for all students to see.
- ❷ Divide your students into small groups. Give the following assignment to each group:
 - A You will write three chapters of a story inspired by the image in front of you. The story begins “In a land far, far away,” but it is up to you to determine how this story unfolds. For the first chapter, describe what you think happened immediately before the action in this painting. What do you think was the cause of the event? Think about the sounds you would hear, your characters’ feelings, their interactions with one another, and the events that took place.
 - B After you write the beginning of your story, you need to address the climax / problem of the story. In the second chapter, describe what you think happened in this scene. Use the details in this painting as visual evidence to convince your reader that the event actually occurred. Think about the sounds you would hear, your characters’ feelings, their interactions with one another, and the events that took place. Think about how these details change from one chapter to next.
 - C Finally describe what happened after this scene. Write an ending / culmination / solution to this story. What do you think happened immediately following this event? What visual clues in the painting help you to determine your writing? Think about the sounds you would hear, your characters’ feelings, their interactions with one another, and the events that took place. How have the elements of the story changed as the narrative progressed? If you are feeling inspired, include a surprise twist at the end of your story!
- ❸ Ask groups to take turns reading their stories. Lead a discussion comparing the different versions asking students to defend their stories with visual clues from the painting.

