



Walters Classroom Connect is a multimedia learning resource that builds visual literacy and critical thinking for K-8 students, in and out of the classroom. Comprising videos, activity sheets, and a graphic novel, Classroom Connect supports students and teachers with limited access to technology and uses the Walters Art Museum's collection of historic art to encourage students to ask questions, seek answers, and support observations about the world around them.

GRADE 1 READING LEVEL

Henry Ossawa Tanner

What's inside?

Follow along with your student as you uncover the story of **Henry Ossawa Tanner**, the first world famous Black American artist. Watch Henry grow and overcome the many barriers before him as he claims his destiny as a great artist.

Classroom Connect is supported by: Herman C. Bainer, The Ruth Carol Fund, The Delaplaine Foundation, The Harry L. Gladding Foundation / Mr. and Mrs. Neal D. Borden, The Goldsmith Family Foundation, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Charitable Legacy, Inc., L'Aiglon Foundation, John J. Leidy Foundation, Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker, Charles A. and Lois H. Miller Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, PNC Foundation, Dr. John J. and Jean Peters Pilch Memorial Fund, The Ruth T. Rauch Early Childhood Program Fund, The Rauch Foundation, Nora Roberts Foundation, The Ludwig and Nancy Sternberger Charitable Foundation, Toyota Financial Services, Truist Foundation, Venable Foundation, The Women's Committee of the Walters Art Museum, and the Gladys Winter Fund for Teacher Programs.

Free admission and educational programs at the Walters Art Museum, both on-site and online, are made possible by the combined generosity of individual supporters, and grants from the City of Baltimore, Citizens of Baltimore County, Howard County Government and Howard County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council, and the Maryland Department of Education State Aided Institutions program.

Henry Ossawa Tanner

**He was a world-famous artist.
Let's learn about his life!**



Henry wanted to be an artist when he grew up. His father wanted him to work in a factory.



Henry tried working in a factory, but he got very sick.



Painting helped Henry get better from being sick.



Henry went to school to study art in Philadelphia. He was the first Black student at his school.



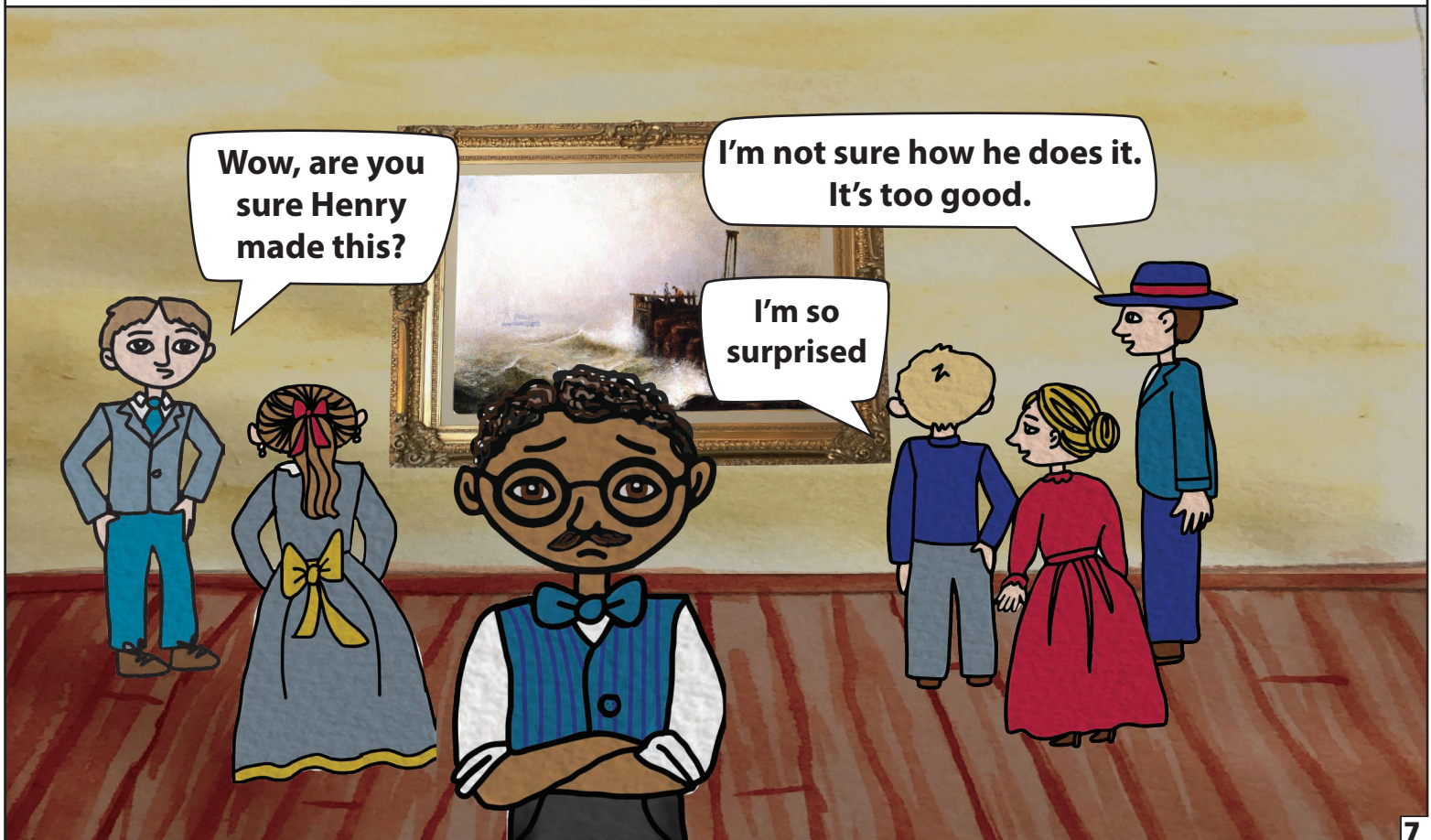
His classmates and teachers shared his love of art, but he still felt alone.



They all treated him differently because of the color of his skin. They were all white while he was Black.



In Philadelphia, even when white people said nice things about Henry's artwork, they always sounded surprised. It seemed like just because he had brown skin, people didn't think Henry could be a good artist.



Henry's parents always expected the best of their children.



8

After school, Henry felt like an artist, but he knew he could be even better.



9

But France was very far away.



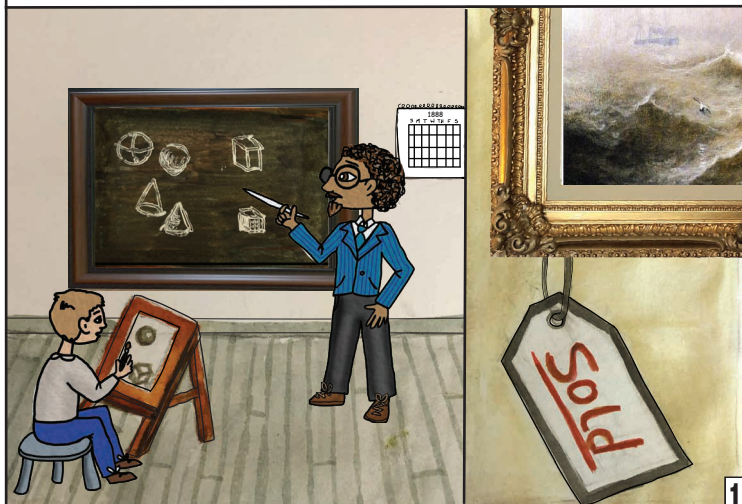
10

It would cost a lot of money to get there.



11

Henry worked as an art teacher and sold his paintings to save up money for his trip.



12

After a few years, Henry made this dream come true.

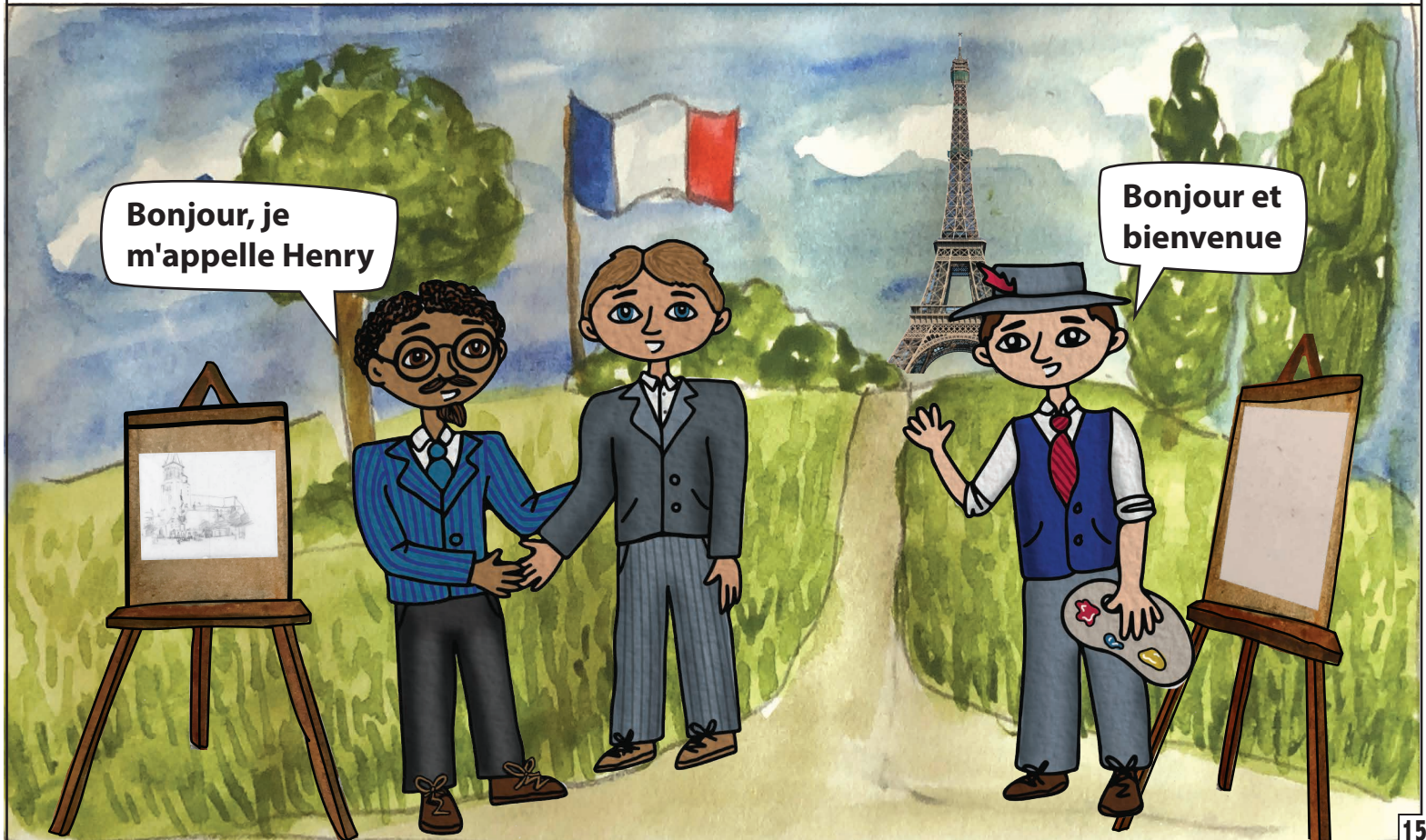


13



14

In France, people saw his skin color, and they still believed he could be a great artist.



15

He was able to let his talent shine and not worry about what other people thought.



16

Henry also got the chance to travel to faraway places.



17

He saw lands and animals that he had never seen before.



Henry saw the world, and he wanted the world to see where he came from, too.

18

When Henry went back to America, a lot of people had the same unfair ideas as before. But something was different! It was Henry!

19



20

He made art that showed how beautiful it was to be Black.



21

He also made a sculpture of his father. Henry's parents taught him that he could do anything.



Henry visited America a few times, but he chose to live in France for the rest of his life. He got married and had a son.



He worked hard and made beautiful art. He won awards. He helped other young artists who came to visit him. Henry's dream of being a great artist came true.



**“I decided on the spot I would become an
artist, and I assure you, it was no
ordinary artist I had in mind.”**



TEXT SOURCES

Henry Ossawa Tanner. (n.d.).

Retrieved November 11, 2020, from <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/henry-ossawa-tanner-4742>

Khalid, F. (n.d.). Henry Ossawa Tanner, The Banjo Lesson (article).

Retrieved November 11, 2020, from <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/american-art-to-wwii/symbolism-america/a/tanner-banjo-lesson>

Tanner, H. O. (1909). The Story of an Artist's Life, Part One and Two. *World's Work*, 26(June-July), 1661-1775.

<https://archive.org/details/worldswork18gard/page/11618/mode/2up>

South, W. (2009). A Missing Question Mark: The Unknown Henry Ossawa Tanner. *Nineteenth Century Art Worldwide*, 8(2).

<http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/autumn09/a-missing-question-mark>

IMAGES

Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Bust of Henry Tucker Tanner*, 1894, painted or patinated plaster, Museum purchase with funds provided by the Eddie and Sylvia Brown Challenge Grant, matching funds, and the estate of Anna Fehl, for the acquisition of African American Art, 2004, acc. no. 28.33.

<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/34753/>

Church, St.-Germain-des-Prés, Henry Ossawa Tanner, n.d., pencil on paper, Smithsonian American Art Museum, D.C., Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robbins, 1983.95.23.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/church-st-germain-des-pres-france-23644>

Daniel in the Lions' den, Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1907-1918, oil on paper mounted canvas. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, Mr. and Mrs. William Preston Harrison Collection, 22.6.3.

<https://collections.lacma.org/node/228961>

Gateway, Tangier, Henry Ossawa Tanner, ca. 1910, oil on plywood. Smithsonian American Art Museum, D.C., Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robbins, 1983.95.190.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/gateway-tangier-23655>

Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Lion Drinking*, ca. 1897, oil on board, Museum purchase with funds provided through the bequest of Laura Delano Eastman by exchange, 2012, acc. no. 2012, 37.2932.

<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/88538/lion-drinking/>

Mrs. Tanner and Bishop Benjamin Tucker Tanner, mother and father of Henry Ossawa Tanner, ca. 1900, photographic print. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, D.C. 20560

https://collections.si.edu/search/detail/edanmdm:AAADCD_item_14646?q=henry+tanner&fq=online_media_type%3A%22Images%22&record=28&hlterm=henry%2Btanner&inline=true

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine arts, 1897, photograph. British Library, England, 014862185.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Academy_of_the_Fine_Arts#/media/File:PH\(1897\)_p2o_ACADEMY_OF_FINE_ARTS.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Academy_of_the_Fine_Arts#/media/File:PH(1897)_p2o_ACADEMY_OF_FINE_ARTS.jpg)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/11240442615>

Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Seascape Jetty*, 1879. Private collection. / WikiArt

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/henry-ossawa-tanner/seascape-jetty-1879>

Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Thankful Poor*, 1894, oil on canvas. Private collection. / The Athenaeum.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Thankful_Poor,_1894._Henry_Ossawa_Tanner.jpg

The Banjo Lesson, Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1893, oil on canvas. Hampton University Museum, Virginia, Gift of Robert C. Ogden, 1894.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henry_Ossawa_Tanner_-_The_Banjo_Lesson.jpg

<https://wp.hamptonu.edu/msm/>

The Canyon, Henry Ossawa Tanner, n.d., oil on canvas. Smithsonian American Art Museum, DC, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robbins, 1983.95.183.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/canyon-23640>