

Students participating in the Art Through the Ages tour will explore the connections between writing and art and the ways in which artists are inspired to tell stories through their work. Use the suggestions below either before or after your museum visit to encourage further inquiry in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES:

- The portraits at the Walters Art Museum tell us much more than just what the subject looked like; if we examine them closely we can learn stories about their lives. Have students look at portraits from the Walters collection and complete the attached worksheet in preparation for making their own self-portraits. In their pictures, students should consider their pose, facial expression, costume, props, and setting to aid them in telling their story.
- Print an overhead transparency of *Scipio Africanus Freeing Massiva* (attached). The part of the story being depicted here is obviously very exciting, with a lot of action. But consider the moment in this painting as one snapshot of a much larger story. Ask students to describe, in drawing or writing, what happened either just before or just after this scene. What made them draw the conclusions that they did? Students should work independently and then compare their answers afterward.
- Have students use the attached worksheet to help them write stories about works of art from the Walters.



VOCABULARY:

Character - A person portrayed in a story.

Setting - The time and place in which a story takes place.

Plot - The series of events in a story.

Portrait - A work of art that represents a specific person. Portraits usually show what a person looks like as well as revealing something about the subject's personality.

Self-portrait - A portrait an artist makes using himself as the subject.

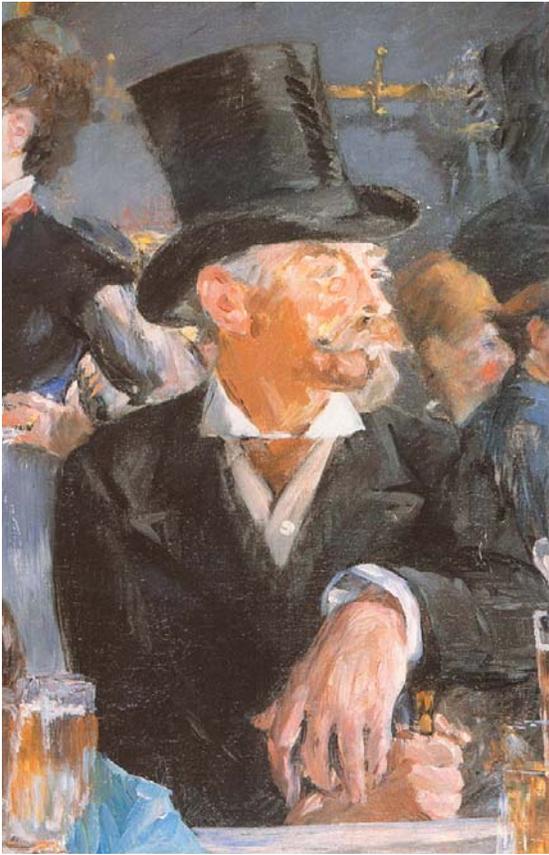
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick, Chris Van Allsburg

Envisioning Writing, Janet Olson

smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/collect/telpai/telpai0a.htm

www.getty.edu/education/for_teachers/curricula/arts_lang_arts/



Name _____

**Portraits can tell us much more about a person than just what they look like!
Choose a portrait from the four on the opposite page, look at it carefully, and then
answer the following questions.**

How would you describe this person's expression? _____

How does this person feel about him or herself? _____

What gives you that impression? _____

Where does he or she live? _____

Would you want to be friends with this person? Why or why not? _____

What do you think this person does in his or her free time? _____

Describe this person's clothing. What does that tell you about him or her? _____

If you could ask this person any question, what would it be? _____

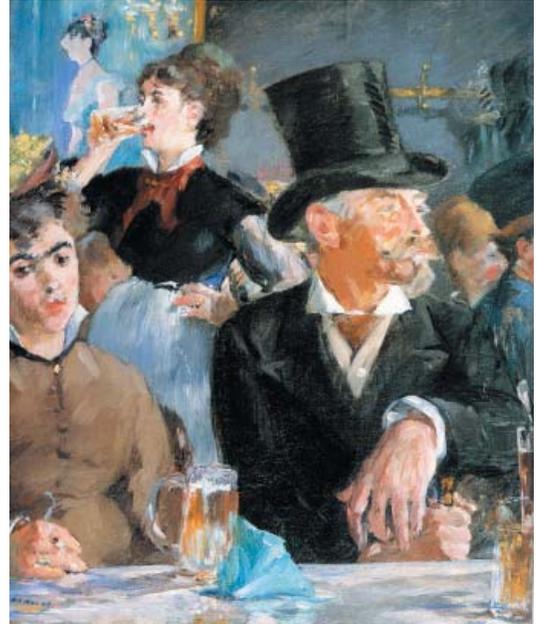


Name _____

What's happening in these pictures? Choose one of these works of art from the Walters Art Museum and write a story on another sheet of paper about what you think is happening. Each picture has one sentence to get your story started, but it's up to you to tell the rest of it!



He couldn't believe what he had read in that morning's newspaper...



And then from across the room, he saw...



She wondered what her parents would think when they saw what she had found...



Just as the sun was setting, the shepherd noticed one of his sheep was missing...