

THE CLARK

IN YOUR CLASSROOM

A LIGHTER LOOK

✓ Best for Grades 4 and up
🔗 Links to ELA and Visual Art

INTRODUCTION

Art can move, inspire, and educate us, but it can also be a great source of entertainment. While some artists intentionally include humor in their creations, many other works of art can be **interpreted** in ways that are clever, unexpected, or just plain fun . . . if you use a little imagination.

Can you try to see things from the **perspective** of the figures in the artwork? What do you think these girls on the beach are thinking and talking about?

Once you've enjoyed these examples, explore the [Clark's digital collection](#) to find new images to play with.



Kingdon, after Winslow Homer, *Low Tide*, from *Every Saturday*, vol. 1, August 6, 1870. Wood engraving on newsprint. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.4053.

SHARE A PICTURE OF YOUR PLAYFUL INTERPRETATION WITH US!
TAG @CLARKART AND USE #CLARKART ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

**FEATURED
VOCABULARY**

INTERPRET
TO EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF
SOMETHING

PERSPECTIVE
A POINT OF VIEW

CAPTION
A TITLE OR BRIEF EXPLANATION THAT GOES ALONG
WITH AN ILLUSTRATION, CARTOON, OR POSTER

ILLUSTRATOR
A PERSON WHO DRAWS OR CREATES PICTURES FOR
MAGAZINES, BOOKS, ADVERTISING, ETC.

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COLLECTION CONNECTIONS



The Clark's collection includes many paintings and works on paper by the American artist Winslow Homer.

In addition to being a painter, Homer was also a great **illustrator**. He frequently showed both serious and silly subjects in publications like the magazine *Harper's Weekly*, where a written **caption** might go along with each illustration.

What would you write as the **caption** for these images? The words you choose can be as whimsical or witty as you desire.

After you finish writing, take a look at the bottom of the page to read the **captions** that appeared with these illustrations when they were first published.



HOW DO YOUR CAPTIONS
COMPARE WITH THE ORIGINALS?



After Winslow Homer, *Bathing at Long Branch*—"Oh, Ain't It Cold." From *Every Saturday*, vol. 3, August 27, 1871. Wood engraving on newspaper. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.4059.

After Winslow Homer, *The Noon Recess*, from *Harper's Weekly*, vol. 17, June 28, 1873. Wood engraving on newspaper. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.1472.

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COLLECTION CONNECTIONS

The Spanish artist Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta excelled at **genre paintings**, or art that features moments from everyday life. His skill at painting textures and tiny details makes the scenes in *Woman with a Parrot* (left) and *Confidences* (right) look especially convincing. If you could step into these paintings, what might you overhear? Use the speech bubbles to create conversations between these figures.



Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta, detail of *Woman with a Parrot*, c. 1872. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1934, 1955.800.



Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta, detail of *Confidences*, c. 1870. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1940, 1955.798.



CLICK EACH TITLE TO VIEW THE FULL PAINTINGS BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR CONVERSATIONS.

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COLLECTION CONNECTIONS

Landscape paintings show natural scenery like, mountains, forests, and fields. Some **landscape** artists choose to include figures in their paintings to help us imagine how a person might experience and react to a particular natural scene. The shepherdess in George Inness's *Green Landscape* has turned her head, perhaps to admire the sunlit trees or keep an eye on her calf.

What might be going on in the shepherdess's mind? What does she think about this place? Go ahead and imagine some thoughts for the calf, too.



George Inness, *Green Landscape*, 1886. Oil on canvas.
Gift of Frank and Katherine Martucci, 2013, 2013.1.5.

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

Having fun? Pass it on! Print out a Clark artwork, add some silly speech bubbles, and send it to a friend. Or, be playful with your favorite artwork by using it as a reaction image in a group chat.