

Using questions to facilitate looking, critical and creative thinking, and the development of a personal response

'On' the painting – supporting looking:

- ❖ Let your eye take a walk around the painting...to the top, bottom, left, right, middle, corners, as far as the eye can see, foreground...
- ❖ Jump into the painting...imagine you are part of the scene...what can you see/hear/ smell/ feel?
- ❖ Look for 20 seconds...close your eyes for 10 seconds and try to remember what you saw...open them again and 'fill in the gaps.'
- ❖ Use questions that invite looking: What can you see? What do you notice?
- ❖ Try playing eye spy with the painting or ask, 'What do you like/dislike?'
- ❖ In pairs, A with eyes closed. B describes painting and A imagines in their head. Alternatively A sits with back to the painting with eyes open while B describes. A can draw what is described to them.

'Within' the painting – making connections:

- ❖ Which figure(s) do you think is important? Why?
- ❖ Freeze frame – What do you notice about this gesture/pose etc...What does this tell you about...?
- ❖ Move into role play of particular times/moments/conversations imagined before/after/during the moment depicted.
- ❖ How might they be feeling? What clues are there?
- ❖ Which other characters are they connected with? How? What does this tell us?
- ❖ If I tell you/ point outhow does your thinking change?
- ❖ What words/ phrases could you use to describe....?
- ❖ Imagine this was a TV screen and I turned up the volume – what might you hear?
- ❖ If you were there what might you smell? Does this change or add to your understanding?
- ❖ Is there something we haven't mentioned? Why do think the artist has included it?
- ❖ How would you describe the atmosphere and mood?
- ❖ What colours do you notice? Does that relate to the story in any way?
- ❖ Do you notice any lines/patterns in the composition that you think might be important? How?

'Beyond' the painting:

Other paintings/stories/contexts:

- ❖ What does remind you of?
- ❖ Can you think of another story/picture where.....? What is the link?
- ❖ How is it similar/different to?
- ❖ Some people have said What do you think?

Own experience:

- ❖ Can you think of a time in your life where?
- ❖ What would you be thinking/feeling if you were....?
- ❖ What would you do if.....?

Imagination:

- ❖ What might be happening just to the left/right – outside the frame?
- ❖ What about 3 seconds/5 minutesbefore/ after?
- ❖ What if?
- ❖ What might.....?

Ways to develop dialogue

Echoing/extending

- ❖ So you are saying...?
- ❖ Can you say a bit more about...?
- ❖ Why? What tells you that?
- ❖ Can someone else add to that?
- ❖ What question(s) does that prompt?
- ❖ What else?
- ❖ Does anyone agree? Why?
- ❖ How is that similar/different to?

Challenging

- ❖ So does that mean...?
- ❖ Would someone like to respond to that point?
- ❖ Does anyone disagree? How? Why?
- ❖ What might a different opinion be?
- ❖ If that is true, what about....?