

Objectives

- Understand how clues help in reading a portrait
- Write a narrative using different artworks as inspiration
- Create a self-portrait using clues about themselves
- Evaluate how clues can change out feelings about an artwork

Students will learn some skills about how to get to know people in portraits by learning to see and evaluate the clues. They will engage personally by:

- Writing a narrative that is related to the portrait
- Drawing a self-portrait that has clues about themselves

They will evaluate the difference between how they felt about the picture when they first saw it and how they feel about it after engaging in these various activities.

Show students the poster, *Snow Queen, My Portrait of Adah* and ask the following questions:

- Do you know this person?
- Is this a boy or a girl?
- How can you tell?

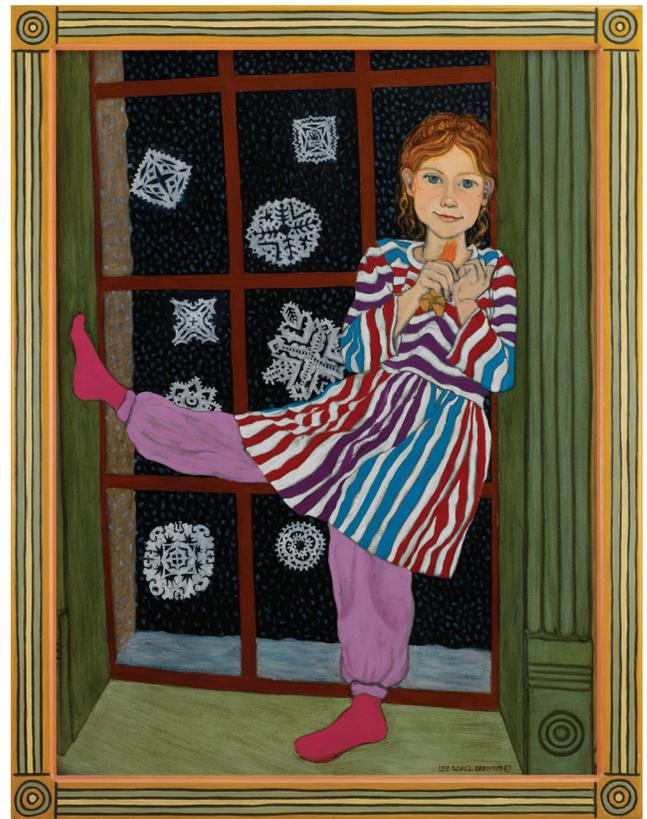
Tell the students the name of the picture and explain a little about the artist. Help students to answer questions about the person in the portrait. Ask students what they know now that they didn't know before. Ask students to name all the things they see in the picture. Ask students to tell what clues the things in the picture give us (ie. time of day, season of the year, age of figure, setting, interests of figure (troll doll, paper snowflakes), attitude of feelings of figure.

Learning Activity

Have the students choose one of the following writing assignments :

1. Write a story about Adah telling why she looks happy.
2. Write a paper about why you would want to be friends with Adah.
3. Write a description about your favorite pajamas and how or why they got to be your favorite.
4. Make up a story about a girl whose mother is an artist.

Be sure to have students add a title to their stories.



Lee Udall Bennion, *Snow Queen, Portrait of Adah*, 1992, oil on canvas

Materials

- Images of Portraits (See Images from the Museum)
- Paper
- Pencils
- A color medium such as crayons, markers, paint, etc.
- Writing paper
- Erasers

Images from the Museum

- Lee Udall Bennion, *Snow Queen, Portrait of Adah*
- Glen Lyman Edwards, *Self Portrait*
- Gary Smith, *Farm Boy in Brown Cap*
- Robert Brackman *Girl from the Village*

Utah Core Standards

Language Arts Standard w.3.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Visual Art Standard 3:

Expressing - The student will choose and evaluate artistic subject matter, themes symbols ideas, meaning, and purpose.

Learning Activity

Next, have to student create their own self-portrait. Explain to the class that the purpose of the picture is to tell about yourself. It will need a setting. It will need at least two clues that tell something about you or about something that is important to you.

In order to get students to think about clues to include, as students the following questions:

- If you were to draw a picture of yourself, what clues would you put in it to tell people about yourself? Why?
- How can you create a secret clue in your drawing? (Hint: use favorite colors in a subtle way instead of actual colors)

Have students tell why they decided to include specific things and have them share details about the objects and the setting.

Assessment:

Ask several students if they are willing to read their written assignment to the class and have the class members evaluate how they incorporated the Language Arts standard in their writing.

After this, have the students evaluate their own writing and check it for compliance. Discuss with students how they can improve their writing skills.

After collecting the portraits, show several to the class and see if the class members can guess if the student included their favorite colors in their portrait. Discuss how and if the setting revealed something personal about themselves.

Show *Snow Queen, Portrait of Adah* again and discuss the differences between their reaction to the picture now as compared to what they felt when they first saw it. Discuss why there is a difference.

Optional Enrichment Assessment

Choose another portrait and, ask the students what they would do to understand and appreciate this picture more fully.



Glen Lyman Edwards, *Self Portrait*, 1986, oil on canvas



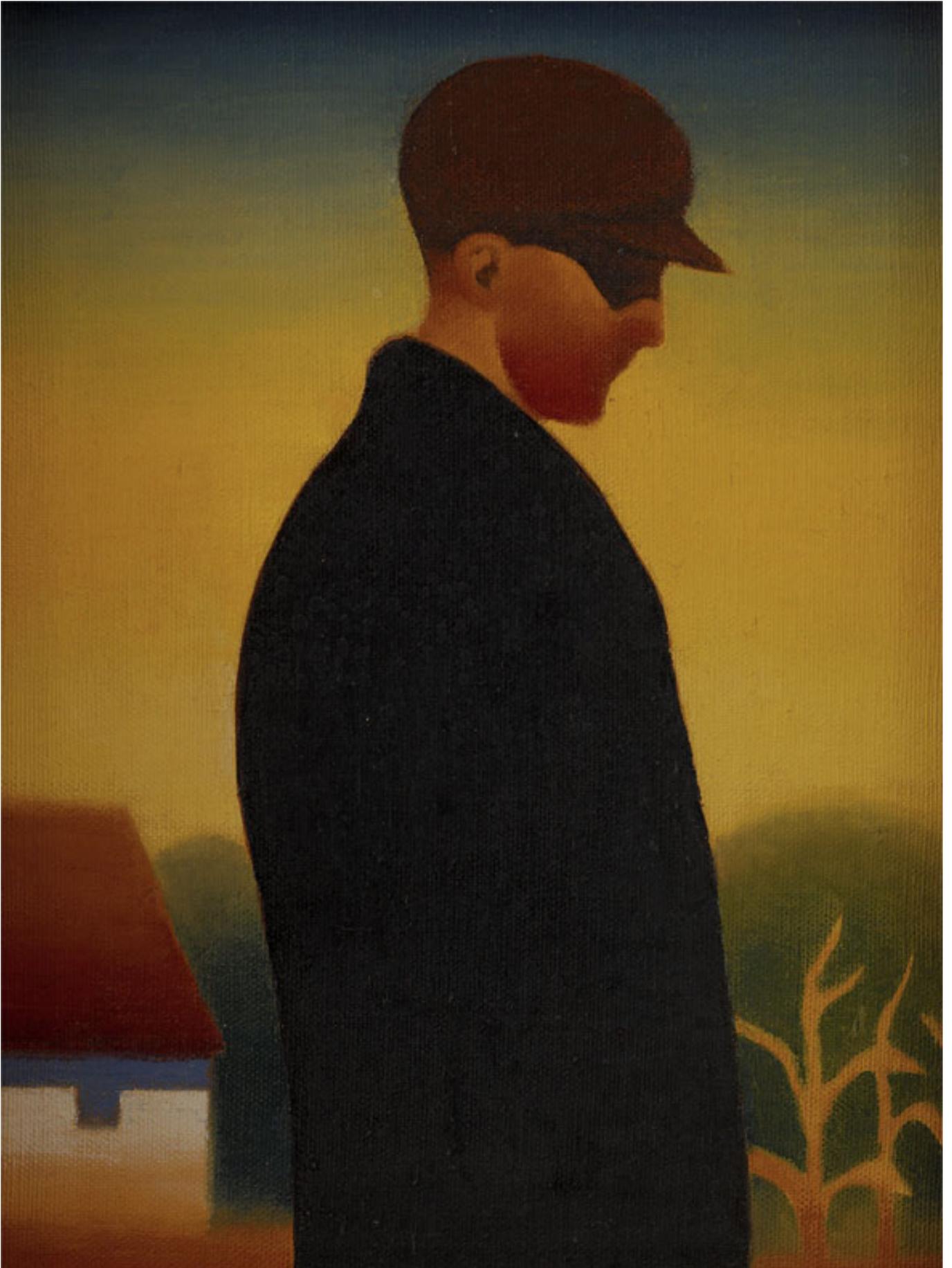
Gary Smith, *Farm Boy in Brown Cap*, 1990, oil on canvas



Robert Brackman, *Girl from the Village*, 1960, oil on canvas



Lee Udall Bennion, *Snow Queen, My Portrait of Adah*, 1992, oil on canvas



Gary Smith, *Farm Boy with Brown Cap*, 1990, oil on canvas



Glen Lyman Edwards, *Self-Portrait* 1986, oil on canvas



Robert Brackman, *Girl from the Village*, 1960, oil on canvas