

BACKGROUND READING FOR PRESENTERS

Edward Hopper
Seven A.M., 1948
Grade Three

Edward Hopper (1882-1967)

Sources: *Current Biography 1950*; *Encyclopedia of World Art*

Edward Hopper was born in Nyack, New York. He was educated at a local private school and then attended Nyack High School. He studied at a commercial art school in New York and later at the New York School of Art.

Between 1906 and 1910 he made three trips of several months each to Europe. He spent most of his time in Paris. He was influenced by the nineteenth century independent French tradition not the modern movement. He was never affected by current artistic movements.

He exhibited in the Armory Show of 1913 where he sold his first painting. He was 31. It would be ten years before he sold another painting.

Hopper married a girl he met in art school, Josephine Nivison. They had no children. After that his sketches and water colors began to sell and he became very well known in his 40's. Even after his paintings became famous, he and his wife lived a very plain life and didn't spend much money. They liked to drive around the country and go to the theater.

Hopper is known as a realist. He was fascinated by light and used it to create mood and liked to paint the sunlight and the shadows it made. He liked to paint the way a lamp lighted the room. He used strong shapes and shadows and many geometric forms. Everyday things like buildings, bridges, trains, theaters, restaurants, small towns and cities, as well as the seashore and sailing boats were the subjects of his paintings.

Included in the artist's paintings were very few people. Those people were often women and were always posed by his wife. The people never seemed to be talking together or even aware of each other. There was always a feeling of loneliness or aloneness, sometimes of mystery or danger.

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR:

Edward Hopper

Seven A.M., 1948

Grade Three

Description and Thought:

1. When Edward Hopper made this painting, what do you suppose he might have been thinking about?
2. What looks familiar to you in this painting?
3. The title is *Seven A.M., 1948*. What does this tell you? Why do you think he gave it this title?
4. What are some things about the painting that tells you the scene is shown during the morning hours?
5. Why are there no people in the painting?
6. Is this scene in a small town or city? How do you know?
7. Is this a noisy or quiet scene?
8. What different types of textures or materials do you see? Examples: concrete, wood, paper, metal, canvas shade, glass window, dirt, leaves and brush

How the painting was made:

9. This painting was done in oil paints, which is made of pigment combined with linseed oil or other vegetable oils, such as walnut oil or poppy seed oil.

Design/Color

10. What colors are used.?
11. How many different shades of one color, green for example, do you see? Point to them. White? Give examples.
12. Does color help to divide the picture space? How?
13. Can you see into the store? What makes it look as though you are looking into
The store? (The color goes from light to dark.)
14. Where can you see the sunshine in the painting?

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY:

**Edward Hopper
Seven A.M., 1948
Grade Three**

1. Your favorite building

Materials: newsprint, pencils, erasers

If weather permits, take students outside to sketch their favorite part of the school building. Emphasize that their sketches don't have to look exactly like the building; that would be a photo taken with a camera. Trees and other background objects can be put in. If students are unable to go outside, have them look out windows at houses around the school, OR remain at their desks and do their sketching of their own home or favorite building—church, courthouse, etc. from their memory.

2. Pretend you are an architect

Materials: Pencil, white paper

Have students discuss architects—what they do, training, importance of their job.

Imagine you are an architect. Design their dream room, house, outer space vehicle, building for another planet, tallest building in the world, a castle.

3. Painting inspired story

Materials: copied writing form (sample in folder), pencil

Students should pick a Hopper painting that has at least one person in it. You may find these in the extra paintings in the books found in the red bag. Other paintings that were shown on the smartboard (Art presenter website for Edward Hopper) may be used, as well. Imagine what the subject in the painting might be thinking, what his/her job is, where he/she has been, and where he/she might be going. Have students begin writing and try not to stop writing for ten minutes.

