

PORTFOLIO COPY

BACKGROUND READING FOR PRESENTERS

Pierre Auguste Renoir (REN war) 1841-1919

Source: Teaching Guide for My Weekly Reader Art Gallery

Renoir was born in France. His father was a poor tailor (one who makes clothes) with a large family to support. Because they were so poor, Renoir had to go to work in a factory when he was only twelve. The factory was a porcelain factory where china dishes were made. He learned to paint flowers and figures on the dishes. It was here that he learned to love beautiful colors and sparkling blues that he later used in his paintings.

Renoir did not become a serious painter until he was twenty-one. At that time he was able to pay for his first art lesson. However, Renoir found that the most valuable lessons cost nothing. He gained knowledge by studying other great works of art in the museums of Paris.

In time Renoir became a well-known member of a group of artists we know as Impressionists. These artists painted things that they looked at very quickly and then started to paint. Their style of painting used bright colors. The eye of the person looking at it would "mix" the colors. Many of their paintings were painted out-of-doors and tried to show the effect of light on the colors. They observed how objects would change color as the sun moved across the sky. Renoir's paintings show children, mothers, and happy young people. He painted happy scenes of dancing, boating, and children playing.

As he grew older, Renoir suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, which crippled his hands. He had his paint brush tied to his hand to continue to paint. Renoir painted every day and during his lifetime made about 6000 paintings. He died of pneumonia at the age of seventy-eight.

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ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

Girl With Watering Can
Pierre Auguste Renoir
Kindergarten

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name everything that you see in this painting.
2. What season of the year do you think it is? Why?
3. What time of day? Why?
4. What kind of day do you think it is? (warm, cold) How do you know?
5. What is happening in the painting?
6. How does this painting make you feel? (happy, sad.....)
7. What is the difference between a bright or dull color?
8. Point out a bright color in the painting. A dull one.
9. What color is grass? Look at the grass in this painting. Is it only green? How many shades of color do you see in the grass, the leaves? Let's count them.
10. What other objects in this painting are made up of many different kinds of colors?
(skin, flowers, hair)
11. Let's name all the different colors in this painting.
12. What is a shadow? Where are the shadows? What kinds of colors do you use to make a shadow? (light and dark)
13. Point to some of the large things in this painting. Some of the small things.
14. What room in the house do you think would be good to hang this painting in?

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Kindergarten
Girl With Watering Can
Pierre Auguste Renoir

MONMOUTH ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES

1. Flower Garden

Using white paper as a background, have students draw a picture of a flower garden. Emphasis should be placed on using a variety of colors, sizes, shapes. Encourage them to try to include leaves, grass, stems and attempt to use a variety of colors in each flower and leaf. (several shades of green if they have them in their crayon box)

Either crayons or colored pencils may be used. Avoid markers.

2. Torn Paper Flower Garden

Have students tear a variety of colors of construction paper into different size pieces.

You may want to prepare the pieces ahead of time and distribute to students. Assemble the pieces into flowers and stems, etc., then with a glue stick attach to the paper. They could have one large flower or make their picture into a garden of flowers.

More challenging--

3. Watering the Garden or Watering the Plants

Talk about the ways that we water our flowers and plants today (with a hose) Discuss why the girl in the painting is using a watering can (no running water). Have students draw a picture of themselves watering with a hose...could be a flower garden or a vegetable garden.