

Masterworks

Discussion Topics and Questions for Students

The Simple Description

- Is it a sculpture/painting?
- Is it still life/portrait/landscape/abstract?
- What is the setting?

Technical

- Does it tell a story or educate the viewer or express feelings?
- What type of medium (e.g., oil paint, watercolors, bronze, etc.?) did the artist use?
- When was it painted?

Line

- How does the artist use line?
- Is it fine or bold?
- Curved or smooth?
- Two- or three-dimensional?

Shape

- Are the shapes of the piece geometrical or natural?
- Are shapes repeated and is there a pattern, or are they random?
- Are the shapes symbolic?

Color and Light

- Are the colors cool or warm?
- Are colors blended?
- Opaque or translucent?
- How does the artist use color to create light and/or shadow (e.g., to create perspective)?

Texture

- In a painting, has paint been layered, put on canvas thickly or blended smoothly?
- In a sculpture or collage, how has texture been used to create an effect?
- What tools did the artist use to create texture?

Masterworks

Discussion Topics and Questions for Students

Composition/Subject Matter

- How is the piece organized?
- Is there a sense of balance to the piece?
- Are shapes symmetrical or asymmetrical?
- Is the subject matter horizontal, vertical, diagonal?

Last but not least: how does the piece of art make you feel? Do you like it, whether or not it is a “masterwork”?