



**Exploring Classical Art at the MFA: Homer's *Iliad* & *Odyssey***  
**MA Curriculum Framework Connections**

**History and Social Science**

**Grade 7 - Ancient and Classical Civilizations in the Mediterranean to the Fall of the Roman Empire:**  
**Ideas that Shaped History**

***Learning Standards - The Roots of Western Civilization: Ancient Greece***

7.32 Describe the myths and stories of classical Greece; give examples of Greek gods and goddesses, heroes, and events, and where and how we see their names used today. (H)

**English Language Arts and Literacy**

**Reading Standards for Literature [RL]**

***Key Ideas and Details - Grade 2***

2. Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
3. Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

***Key Ideas and Details - Grade 3***

2. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

***Integration of Knowledge and Ideas - Grade 1***

7. Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

***Integration of Knowledge and Ideas - Grade 3***

7. Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

***Integration of Knowledge and Ideas - Grade 4***

7. Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.



**School and Teacher Programs**  
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9. Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

***Integration of Knowledge and Ideas - Grade 5***

7. Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).

***Craft and Structure - Grade 4***

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

**Writing Standards [W]**

***Text Types and Purposes - Grade 5***

MA.3.A. Write stories, poems, and scripts that draw on characteristics of tall tales or myths, or of modern genres such as mysteries, fantasies, and historical fiction.

**Speaking and Listening Standards [SL]**

***Comprehension and Collaboration - Grade 3***

2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

**Reading Literature Standards [RL]**

***Integration of Knowledge and Ideas - Grades 9-10***

7. Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden's "Musée des Beaux Arts" and Breughel's Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).

**Speaking and Listening Standards [SL]**

***Comprehension and Collaboration - Grades 6-8***

1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.



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***Comprehension and Collaboration - Grade 6***

2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

***Comprehension and Collaboration - Grade 7***

2. Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.

***Comprehension and Collaboration - Grade 8***

2. Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

**Visual Arts**

***Methods, Materials, and Techniques - by the end of Grade 4***

1.3 Learn and use appropriate vocabulary related to methods, materials and techniques.

***Critical Response - by the end of Grade 4***

5.3 Describe similarities and differences in works, and present personal responses to the subject matter, materials, techniques and use of design elements in artworks.

***Critical Response - by the end of Grade 8***

5.5 Demonstrate the ability to recognize and describe the visual, spatial and tactical characteristics of artwork.

5.6 Demonstrate the ability to describe the kinds of imagery used to represent subject matter and ideas, for example, literal representations, simplification, abstraction, or symbolism.

***Critical Response - by the end of Grades 9-12***

5.8 Demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast two or more works of art, orally and in writing, using appropriate vocabulary.

5.11 Analyze a body of work, or the work of one artist, explaining its meaning and impact on society, symbolism and visual metaphor.

***Purposes and Meanings in the Arts- by the end of Grade 8***

6.3 Interpret the meanings of artistic works by explaining how the subject matter and/or form reflect the events, ideas, religions, and customs of people living at a particular time in history.



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***Concepts of Style, Stylistics, and Stylistics Change- by the end of Grade 4***

8.2 Identify characteristic features of the visual arts of world civilizations such as styles of ancient Egypt and Africa, China, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and the Medieval period in Europe.

***Concepts of Style, Stylistics, and Stylistics Change- by the end of Grades 9-12***

8.8 Identify the stylistic features of a given work and explain how they relate to aesthetic tradition and historical or cultural contexts.