

Making Connections— “Looking” Questions

Music for Spectators

Slide 4 (*Prince on a Terrace with Female Dancers and Musicians*)

- | Why do you think the prince has asked for a private performance for him and two other people?
- | Why do you think they are performing outside at night?
- | What do you think the purpose of this image was?
- | What instruments can you find in this painting?

Slide 5 (*Twelfth-Night Feast*)

- | What do you think is going on in the picture?
- | What do you think is the relationship between the people in this painting? How can you tell if they are friends, family, or strangers?
- | If you were a part of this scene, what sort of things do you think you could hear, smell or feel?
- | How is a musical instrument (the violin) important in this scene?

Slide 6 (*Twelfth-Night Instrument*)

- | What is the mood of the music being played? How can you tell?
- | Do you think this is the music being played in the painting? Why or why not?

Slide 7 (Different Audiences Comparison)

- | What are the differences in the reasons for playing music in these two scenes?
- | What are the differences in the audience for the music being played?
- | Name some other similarities and differences between the two paintings.

Slide 8 (*La Perspective*)

- | How is music significant in this scene?
- | Why do you think the young man is playing music in the middle of a park?
- | Which instrument do you think the young man is playing?

Slide 10 (*Rustic Dance after a Sleigh Ride*)

- | Where do you think this dance is taking place?
- | Why do you think there is a dance taking place? Do you think they are celebrating?
- | What social classes do you think these people belong to? Support your answers with details from the painting?
- | What is the general mood of the painting?

Slide 11 (*The Hollingsworth Family*)

- | Does the family look like they are celebrating something? Why or why not?
- | What is the general mood of the painting?
- | Why do you think no one is looking at each other?
- | What do you think the young lady is playing on the piano?

Slide 13 (Family Comparison)

- | Compare and contrast these two families. Are they happy, excited, bored? Support your answers with details from the paintings.
- | How did the artist capture the different moods of the two scenes?

Implied Music

Slide 16 (*In the Loge*)

- | Looking at this image, what kind of show do you think these people are attending?
- | How is sound or music implied in this scene?
- | What do you think the woman is looking at?
- | Imagine this is an opera, concert or a ballet performance. What sounds would you hear just before the curtain goes up?

Slide 17 (*In the Loge Music*)

Perhaps the woman is attending a ballet or opera where the oboe is one of many instruments being played.

As you listen to the music performed on the oboe, focus on the image. Can you imagine that the music is actually playing in that theater?

Slide 18 (*Shirabyoshi Dancer*)

- | How can you tell that woman in this image is dancing?
- | Do you think she is dancing for a small or large audience? Explain your answer.
- | What kind of music do you think she is dancing to?

Slide 20 (*Little Fourteen-Year-Old Dancer*)

- | Based on her stance, do you think ballerina is just practicing or is she about to perform for an audience? How can you tell?
- | What kind of music can you imagine she is practicing or performing to here?
- | Why do you think music must accompany the image of a ballerina?



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Slide 21 (*Arabesque over Right Leg*)

- | Do you think this ballerina is performing in front of audience or practicing? How can you tell?
- | What do you think the artist was concerned with while making this sculpture? (Her stance, her physical features, her muscles, etc.)

Slide 23 (*Dance at Bougival*)

- | Do you think this couple is enjoying the dance? What are some visual clues to support your answer?
- | What kind of music can you imagine is playing as they are dancing?
- | Why did the artist choose to focus on this one couple in a place where there are possibly many others dancing?
- | What is so interesting about this couple to the artist?

Slide 24 (*Ballerina and Dance Comparison*)

- | What are the differences in the kinds of music you imagine that go along with each piece of art?
- | How is music implied, but not illustrated, by each artist?
- | What is the importance of capturing a moment in time for each artist?

Music in Religion

Slide 27 (*St. Cecilia*)

- | Is she in the correct stance for someone playing a violin? Why do you think she is depicted this way?
- | How is Saint Cecilia shown as a humble figure?
- | Is there a sense that she is religious or a religious figure in this painting?

Slide 28 (*Saint Cecilia [2]*)

- | How can we tell that Saint Cecilia is a holy and religious figure in this engraving?
- | How does religion play a role in this image?
- | What do you think Saint Cecilia is singing and playing?
- | What do you think is the significance of the organ?



Slide 30 (St. Cecilia Comparison)

- | In what ways are the two images of Saint Cecilia different? In what ways are they similar?
- | What do you think is the significance of the different instruments?
- | Do you think one image is more religious than the other? Why or why not?

Slide 31 (*Benzaiten, the Goddess of Music and Good Fortune*)

- | How is the goddess Benzaiten being portrayed in this painting?
- | Why do you think she is depicted as playing a biwa (a Japanese form of a lute)?
- | Where do you think she is located in this painting? Why do you think the artist chose to paint her in this location?

Slide 34 (St. Cecilia & Benzaiten)

- | Both women are divine beings associated with music. What are the visual clues that indicate who they are? Can you tell if both are divine? Why or why not?
- | Who do you think these images were made for? Do you think that these people would have understood the identities of the women easily? Why or why not?
- | What are the similarities and differences in how they are portrayed?

Slide 35 (*The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne*)

- | Why do you think music is being played? What do you think is going on?
- | Notice that nearly a third of the painting is devoted to music being played in the presence of the holy figures. In what ways is music important to the scene?
- | What instruments can you find in this painting?

Slide 38 (*Virgin and Child enthroned with Saints; Crucifixion; Coronation of the Virgin*)

- | Look very closely. Why do you think there are three different scenes and events being depicted on one object?
- | This was originally a small, intimate altarpiece, with a panel on either side that would close and hide the images on the bottom. How do you think would this have been used?
- | Can you find the instruments being depicted in this painting?
- | Why is music significant to that particular scene?

Slide 39 (*Dormition of the Virgin*)

- | How does the artist express the sadness and grief of the apostles?
- | Why do you think one of them is ringing a bell? What is the significance of it?
- | How can you tell the holy figures from the ones who are not?

Music for Knowledge & Leisure

Slide 43 (Pair of Menuki in the form of five Chinese scholars...)

- | Why do you think music is considered one of four accomplishments?
- | Why do you think the three other arts would have made a well-rounded person?
- | Do you think this idea would have applied to women as well? Why or why not?
- | What makes someone well-rounded today?
- | These decorations were made from gold. Why do you think they were made from such a precious material?

Slide 44 (*Parody of the Four Accomplishments*)

- | Why do you think the artist named this painting a parody of the four accomplishments? In what ways is this parody?
- | Why do you think beautiful women are portrayed engaging in the four accomplishments instead of gentlemen-scholars?

Slide 46 (*Jan van Musschenbroek and His Wife*)

- | How can you tell that this man and his wife are wealthy? Support your answer.
- | Do you think they are focused on playing music? Why or why not?
- | Why do you think they chose to be painted with a musical instrument and music books if they are not depicted as actually playing music?
- | Notice the details of each figures' facial features. Why do you think the couple is painted so realistically?

Slide 47 (*Music Lesson* by Manet)

- | Can you tell who is giving the music lesson and who is receiving it? Support your answer.
- | Why do you think that both people are not looking at the instrument or the music sheet?
- | Where do you think they are looking? What are they looking at?
- | Does it seem like this music lesson is important to them? Why or why not?
- | Which instrument is the man playing?

Slide 49 (*The Music Lesson Porcelain Figure*)

- | Does it seem like they are a couple? Why or why not?
- | Do you think they are enjoying the lesson?
- | Do you think they are focused on learning how to play or instrument? If not, what do you think they are more concerned with?

Slide 50 (*Music Lesson Comparison*)

- | Who do you think is receiving the music lesson? How can you tell?
- | What are the similarities and differences between these two artworks?
- | What do you think the two instruments are, as they are represented in these two artworks?

Slide 51 (*Drinking cup depicting young athlete taking a music lesson*)

- | Why do you think an athlete would need music lessons?
- | What does this image say about the importance of music in ancient Greek society?
- | Why do you think this image was made on a drinking cup?

Slide 52 (*Degas's Father Listening to Lorenzo Pagans Playing the Guitar*)

- | How can you tell that Degas's father is listening intently?
- | Do you think there are other people listening to this performance? Why or why not?
- | What do you think Degas's father is thinking about as he listens to the music?
- | Do you think Lorenzo Pagans is enjoying himself? Why or why not?

Slide 54 (*Boy Singing*)

- | Do you think the boy is singing to someone or is he singing by himself? Why?
- | What do you think he is holding in his hand?
- | Do you think he is perhaps practicing for a big performance?
- | Why do you think the artist chose to depict the boy at that particular moment in time while he singing?

Slide 55 (*Portrait of a Man Playing a Lute*)

- | Why do you think the man is looking directly at the viewer?
- | How do you think this man wanted to be remembered, as seen in the portrait? Use details from the painting to support your answers.
- | How can you tell if he is wealthy or not?
- | What do you think the ability to play an instrument suggests?

Slide 56 (*Lute Player*)

- | Do you think this man is performing or practicing in the painting? How can you tell?
- | Do you think this would have been a comfortable position to play a lute in? Why or why not?
- | Where do you think the man is playing?

Slide 58 (*Lute Player Comparison*)

- | Which man do you think is friendlier? Support your answer with details from the painting.
- | Why do you think both men are looking directly at the viewer?
- | Do you think they lived in the same country? Why or why not?
- | Do you think these men are performing or practicing music?

Slide 59 (*Woman Playing a Lute*)

- | What are some visual clues that tell you that the woman is not performing in front of people in this painting?
- | Where do you think she is in the context of the painting?
- | Do you think she is a professional or does she play at her own leisure? Why or why not?
- | Why do you think she is playing the lute by herself?

Slide 60 (Man/Woman Lute Comparison)

- | What are the similarities and differences between these two paintings?
- | Why do you think the man is looking directly at the viewer, but the woman is not? What is the significance of this difference?

Instruments as Symbols

Slide 62 (*Siva as Nataraja*)

- | Why do you think Siva has so many arms?
- | What is the significance of music in this sculpture?
- | Do you think Siva is dancing? Why or why not?
- | Why do you think a drum is used in particular?
- | Can you find the drum Siva is playing?

Slide 63 (*The Procuress*)

- | Tell a story based on what you see happening in the picture.
- | Why do you think the woman is holding a lute?
- | Imagine the conversation that these three people are having. What are they saying to each other?

Slide 64 (*Still Life in an Architectural Setting*)

- | Do you think this painting has more meaning than just an assortment of objects placed together?
- | What is the overall mood set by the painting? Explain your answer.
- | What is the significance of the instrument in the painting?
- | What other objects do you see? What kind of story could you tell based on this painting?

Slide 66 (*Vanitas Still Life*)

- | What kinds of objects do you see included in this still life based on the idea of vanity?
- | In what ways do these objects represent vanity appropriately? Why do you think the artist chose them?
- | What do you think the skull represents?
- | Look closely. The artist has painted the image as if the canvas is falling off its base. Why do you think the artist chose to depict this?



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Slide 67 (*Vanitas Still Life* and Violin comparison)

- | Why do you think a violin is included in a still life that deals with the theme of vanity?
- | What can you say about the mood that this particular piece of music sets for the painting on the left?
- | Upon looking at this painting, did you immediately understand what the artist is trying to portray? Do you think people who viewed this painting at the time it was made would have understood what it means?

Slide 68 (*Vanitas*)

- | Why do you think the boy is blowing bubbles? Why did the artist choose to paint the man sleeping?
- | In what ways does this painting represent vanity?

Slide 69 (*Vanitas Comparison*)

- | How has each artist chosen to represent the same idea?
- | Why do you think a skull indicates vanity?
- | Why do you think a contemporary artist revisits the notion of vanity using symbols that many people might not recognize today?





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