

Pictures and Words

Grade 3 Art Program

Pictures and Words is a grant-funded program that provides participating classes with a field trip and busing to the Barnes Foundation and a pre- and post-visit outreach lesson at their school.

Students read paintings like text by identifying the characters, settings, and main ideas that artists present in their artwork. Students learn to make inferences by seeing how artists use color, line, and shape to convey a story. This art program integrates with English Language Arts standards by encouraging students to build literacy skills through identifying stories in works of art.



Pre-K–12 Outreach Program Goals:

- To make students of all races and backgrounds feel comfortable and confident in a museum setting.
- To build visual literacy skills.
- To foreground the use of art as an expressive tool.
- To help teachers integrate art into the curriculum.

Program Goals:

By the end of Pictures and Words, students should be able to:

- Understand how art tells a story and demonstrate critical-thinking skills by making inferences about artworks to support their opinions.
- Describe the story of a painting by identifying the character, setting, and main event, thus using an artwork as text.
- Identify, through strong observational skills, how color, line, and shape work as key details and evidence to convey the story in a work of art.
- Create works of art that show individual expression using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

Pictures and Words addresses the following English Language Arts and Visual Arts standards:

Pennsylvania Core Standards

- 1.3 Reading Literature
CC.1.3.3.C Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- 1.4 Writing
CC.1.4.3.M Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.
- 1.5 Speaking and Listening
CC.1.5.3.C Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate detail.
CC.1.5.3.E Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

National Visual Arts Standards

- VA:Cr2.1.3a Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
- VA:Pr6.1.3a Identify and explain how and where different cultures record and illustrate stories and history of life through art.
- VA:Re7.1.3a Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards English Language Arts

- RL.3.3. Describe the characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the plot.
- NJSLSA.W3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- W.3.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using narrative technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- W.3.3.A. Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
- NJSLSA.SL1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- NJSLSA.SL2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

About the Barnes Foundation

The Barnes was established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 as a teaching institution. The Foundation's art collection contains paintings, sculptures, furniture, textiles, and jewelry from around the world—Africa, China, France, Pennsylvania, the American Southwest, and beyond. In his gallery, Dr. Barnes arranged works of art into groups, which he called “ensembles,” based on visual similarities. Each ensemble was designed to reveal new ways of looking at art. In May 2012, the Barnes moved from Merion, PA, to Philadelphia, making the art more accessible to students and visitors from all over the world.