Pictures and Words—Grade 3

Pictures and Words is a grant-funded program that provides participating classes with a field trip and busing to the Barnes Foundation and an online pre-visit lesson and a post-visit lesson at their school. Pictures and Words is one of the Barnes’s four pre-K–12 partnership programs for students in Philadelphia, Camden, NJ, and Catholic schools in the Delaware Valley.

During their visit to the Barnes, students learn to read paintings by making claims about the setting, characters, and main idea represented in the artist’s work. Students learn to make inferences by seeing how artists use color, line, and shape to convey a story. This program integrates English language arts standards by encouraging students to build literacy skills through identifying stories in works of art. Teachers receive lesson plans to use before and after the program.

Pre-K–12 Program Goals:

• To help students and teachers of all backgrounds feel comfortable and confident in a museum setting.

• To give students and teachers the basic tools for “reading” works of art and for thinking critically about the image-saturated world around them.

• To help students and teachers of all backgrounds find relevance in art.

• To support students’ academic growth by aligning lessons with curricular standards and modeling arts integration.

By the end of Pictures and Words, students will 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 curriculum standards:

**PENNSYLVANIA CORE STANDARDS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
- **CC.1.3.3.C** Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- **CC.1.4.3.M** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.
- **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.

**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.

**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.