



3. What is it About? A Little Closer Still

Student Name _____ Date _____

Look at the impressionist painting from the first activity and answer the following sets of questions.

Part I

1. Who is depicted in this image?

2. How many figures?

3. What are the genders of the figures?

4. How are they dressed?

5. What action(s) are occurring in this image? By whom? Between whom?

6. What is the setting of this image- where does it take place?

7. What time of day is it? (Day, evening, night?)

8. What is the subject of this image?

Part II

1. What do they think is the relationship between the figures in this image?

2. Where is the attention of each of these figures directed? Students should note the direction of each figure's eyes.

3. What are the woman on the far left and the woman in the center doing?

4. What does the body language of the young man indicate to you? Does he seem aware of what is going on?

5. What does the way he is dressed tell you about him?

Part III

1. Which figure is the fortune teller?

2. How are the women in this painting related to each other?

3. Who is the young man?

Part IV

1. Is this a direct depiction of the parable? Why or why not?

2. Does this specific scene take place in the narrative of the story?

3. Why do you think this picture is often connected to this parable?

4. How does this painting *allude* to the parable of the Prodigal Son?

5. What are the details of the painting which might have reminded viewers familiar with the story of the parable?

6. Why do you think that the painter created an image that *alluded* to the parable instead of depicting it?

7. Does this image emphasize both of these messages? Just one? Explain your answer.

8. Why do you think the painter has chosen to show the young man in the process of losing his money rather than returning home (a common theme in Western visual art)?

9. The symbolic meaning or message of a work of art is also thought of as one of its subjects. How many kinds of subjects have you found in this painting? What are they? Explain your answer.
