



Painting Pictures with Words

Activity I: Interpretation

Examine the facial expressions of the women in the paintings linked below closely. Pretend that you are preparing to publish [The Highwayman](#) as a picture book, using these paintings to illustrate how Bess feels at different points in the poem. For each painting, choose a stanza from the poem that you feel it illustrates well. Copy the stanza below, and then explain why you feel it fits the painting.

Painting 1: [Head of a Young Woman \(“Contemplation”\), by Jean Baptiste Greuze \(1770’s\)](#), link from the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

Stanza:

I feel this stanza fits the painting because:

Painting 2: [Head of a Woman, by Jean Baptiste Greuze \(1770’s\)](#), link from the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

Stanza:

Pictures in Words: "The Charge of the Light Brigade" and "The Highwayman"— http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=426

I feel this stanza fits the painting because:

Activity II: Creating Figurative Language

Click the hyperlink to examine [The Bell Inn, by George Morland](#) (late 18th, early 19th century. Link from the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)). This is another painting that could be used to illustrate [The Highwayman](#). Follow the directions below to create some word pictures of your own inspired by the painting. Use details from the story in the poem, or create your own narrative!

- **An alliterative sentence that describes this painting:**
 - Example: “Lovely Lisa leers lazily at Leonardo.”

- **A metaphor that describes all or part of this painting:**
 - Example: “Her smile was a twisted serpent.”

- **A sentence containing onomatopoeia inspired by this painting:**
 - Example: “Creeeeak! Mona’s knee was beginning to give out. She had been posing for this artist for hours!”

- **An example of personification inspired by this painting:**
 - Example: “Her eyes danced merrily as she thought of the finished portrait.”

- **A simile that describes all or part of this painting:**
 - Example: “Her dark, straight hair was as heavy as a wool blanket in the afternoon heat.”