

Narrative Art: Create Your Own Story

Watson and The Shark 1778 Oil on Canvas

182.1 cm × 229.7 cm (71¾ in × 90½ in)

John Singleton Copley

Think about a dramatic moment in your life. If you were to paint this moment in your life, what would the painting look like? What moment would it depict?

Use the following questions to guide you:

- What is the setting?
- What is the time of day?
- What is in the foreground, middle ground, and background of the painting?
- What are you doing?
- How are you posed?
- What is your attire?
- What does your facial expression indicate?
- Who else is in the painting with you?
- What are they doing/wearing?
- What do their facial expressions communicate?
- What is the mood of the painting? How is that communicated?

Narrative Art student handout 2 Based on The National Gallery of Art Teacher Institute Summer 2011
Crosscurrents of American Art: 18th and 19th Centuries
University of Virginia School of Continuing and Professional Studies

Mary Bergdolt Slider

Narrative Art

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Teacher Resources:

Other works and Narrative Art links from the National Gallery of Art

[Greek and Roman Myths](#)

[Art & Heroes & Heroines](#)

[Shaw Memorial - Student handout](#)

[Caravaggio - The Taking of Christ](#)

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