

**APPENDIX A:
LOOKING AT AND TALKING ABOUT ART WORKS**

Looking at an art work and discussing it, whether it is a photograph, a painting, a sculpture, a piece of pottery, or whatever, takes time. Opportunities for discussing art works may arise any time, not necessarily in the art lesson. For this reason, an outline of questions and topics is provided to give some direction to the discussion of art works.

The role of the teacher is to ask questions and encourage students to find answers (which may vary). Resist the temptation to direct the children's attention to examples of this or that in an image. Instead, have them play detective.

Things to Look for in an Art Work

1. Ask questions about *recognizable objects* in an image.

What kinds of objects do you see?

(children, other people, animals, trees, snow, buildings, food, etc.)

Try to elicit detailed descriptions if they do not come naturally, by asking questions like

What do they look like?

What are they doing?

What time of day is it?

Is it cold there?

What season is it?

What are they wearing?

Do we see the same kinds of things around us?

2. Ask questions about *design elements and principles*.

What kinds of lines do you see?

(thick, dark, fuzzy, curving, etc.)

What kinds of shapes and forms do you see?

(circles, irregular, large, cubes, etc.)

What kinds of colours do you see?

(bright, dark, warm, neutrals, etc.)

What kinds of textures do you see?
(rough, fuzzy, spongy, smooth, pebbly, etc.)

What kind of space do you see? What makes it that kind of space?
(deep, shallow; detail, size, location, etc.)

Where are the light areas? Where are the dark areas?
(bottom, middle, top, right, centre, etc.)

What kind of balance is used?
(symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial)

What is the first thing you see when you look at this art work (focal point)?
(answers will vary)

What do you see repeated in the image?
(lines, shapes, objects, etc.)

Is there contrast in the image? How is it created?
(colour, shape, texture, etc.)

Is there a sense of movement in the image? How is it created?
(line, shape, repetition, etc.)

3. Ask questions about *art materials and processes*.

What medium has the artist used?
(paint, oil pastels, clay, etc.)

How has the artist used the medium?
(thickly, thinly, roughly, delicately, in combination with other media, etc.)

4. Ask questions about the *meaning and mood* of the work.

What do you think the artist was trying to say in the work?
(show us an everyday object in a new way; present beautiful shapes and colours; express loneliness, grief, joy; describe the power of the ocean; portray a family, etc.)

Can you think of just one word to describe the overall meaning or feeling of the image?
(love, excitement, joy, anger, fear, hate, simplicity, loneliness, sadness, peace, mystery, horror, etc.)

**APPENDIX B:
THEMATIC SOURCES**

The following broad themes have been adopted, with minor modifications, from Alberta Education's *Elementary Curriculum Guide*, 1985.

Plants

Forest plants	Wild plants	House plants	Prehistoric plants
Jungle plants	Desert plants	Sea plants	Edible plants
Flowers	Trees	Shrubs	Weeds
Tropical plants	Lichen	Fungi	Mushrooms
Fruit	Nuts		

Animals

Animals and Environment

Jungle animals	Farm animals	Circus animals	Desert animals
Wild animals	Arctic animals	Extinct animals	Pets
Dinosaurs			

Sea Animals

Fish	Seals	Dolphins	Mollusks
Whales	Squid	Sea urchins	Lobster
Walrus	Char		

Birds

Bluejays	Crows	Puffins	Gulls
Turrs	Ducks	Geese	Snowbirds
Ravens	Bullbirds		

Insects

Spiders	Ants	Bees	Caterpillars
Beetles	Moths	Butterflies	Mosquitoes
Wasps			

Reptiles

Snakes Crocodiles Lizards Turtles

Amphibians

Frogs Salamanders Newts

Environment and Places

Water

Rivers Lakes Streams Bogs
Oceans Marshes Brooks Ponds
Waterfalls Barasways Fjords Tickles

Earth Forms

Mountains Icebergs Tundra Erosion
Sand Rocks Hills Glaciers
Caves
 • stalactites
 • stalagmites

Weather

Rain Snow Hail Wind
Fog Sleet Sunshine Clouds

Places

Towns Cities Countries Farms
Backyards Forests Parks Fields
 • natural
 • landscaped

Villages
 • local
 • around the world

Time

Yesterday Winter	Tomorrow Summer	Night Spring	Day Fall
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Manufactured

Buildings

Home <ul style="list-style-type: none">• apartments• cabins• tents• huts• clubhouses	Castles Farm Igloos Stages	Restaurants Teepees Libraries Offices	Garages Temples Firehalls Factories
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Modern Technology

Computers Light/sound systems	Spaceships	Video games	Robots
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Decorative and Functional Objects

Dishes, pottery Costumes Body tatoos	Rugs Masks Sports equipment	Tools Footwear Jewellery	Clothing Furniture
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Constructions

Roads Railways Boardwalks	Bridges Canals Overpasses	Walkways Wharves	Traffic patterns Paths
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Vehicles

Bicycles Trains	Cars Spaceships	Ships Boats	Airplanes
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Machines

Farm implements Snowmobiles	Office equipment Domestic machines	Fishing gear	Outboard motors
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Fantasy

Mythical people	Elves	Storybook people	Martians
science fiction	Giants	Mythical animals	Witches
Talking animals	Ghosts	Goblins	Trolls
Superheroes	Mythical gods and goddesses	Fantasy from Children's Literature	

People Environment

Familiar	Storybook	Ethnic	Sports
Occupations	Space age	Stone age	

Celebrities

Movie stars	Rock stars	Athletes	Heroes
Judges	Elders	Astronauts	TV personalities

Historical

Knights	Vikings	Pirates	Explorers
Cave people			

Royalty

Kings	Princes	Queens	Princesses
Harlequins	Jesters	Knights	

Special Days

Christmas	Thanksgiving	Easter	St. Patrick's Day
Halloween	Valentine's Day	Birthday	

Personalized Subjects

- I am skipping.
- I am eating a sandwich.
- I am brushing my teeth.
- I am playing ball.
- I am going to a party.
- I am picking berries.
- I am brushing my hair.
- I am touching my toes.
- I am tying my shoelaces.
- My new socks.
- I am running with my kite.
- We are playing hopscotch.
- We are playing marbles.
- We are building a fort in the snow.
- We are throwing snowballs.
- My brother and I are washing the dog.
- My friends and I on the swings in the playground.
- The wind is blowing my hair.
- We are walking in the park.
- We are walking _____.
- My dad and I go to the supermarket.
- Watching television with my family.
- Going to the dentist.
- At the gas station.
- Delivering the mail.
- Looking at a parade.
- At the concert.
- Other.

- My favourite animal.
- Walking my dog.
- My cat and her kittens.
- The fastest horse.
- Feeding the birds.
- The fish farm.
- The Teddy Bear's Picnic.
- I went fishing.
- A baby _____.
- A bird house in a tree.

- A gingerbread house.
- The zoo.
- Climbing a mountain.
- Flowers in my garden.
- Picking flowers.
- The sun makes flowers grow.
- Star light, star bright, first star I've seen tonight.
- The man in the moon.
- Camping outdoors.
- My house.
- The school playground.
- Hopscotch on the sidewalk.
- The tallest building.
- Our library
- Our _____.
- Playing hide-and-seek.
- My street.
- The most beautiful seashell.
- The waves are dancing.
- Rocks have patterns.
- A pile of leaves in my yard.
- Fruits and vegetables at the supermarket.
- Taking a bus.
- Taking a plane.
- Riding a roller coaster.
- We travelled to _____.
- Going sliding.
- Going skating.
- The snowplow at work.
- The first crocus.
- Going for a swim.
- Other.

- The Christmas story.
- The animals leave the stable.
- The stockings are full.
- A gift for my best friend.
- An Easter egg hunt.

- Easter eggs in many colours.
- The scariest witch.
- I went to a concert.
- Beautiful dancers.
- The trumpet makes a loud sound.
- My favourite rock stars.
- The _____. (A topic based on favourite T.V. program.)
- Other.

APPENDIX C: SAMPLE ART ACTIVITIES*

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