

See, Think, Wonder

A tool for parents, carers and teachers to use when exploring the gallery. This can be used for any artwork or exhibition. *See, Think, Wonder* helps young people engage with artworks on a deeper level through observation, interpretation and questioning.

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SEE – Careful Observation

Ask your group to spend a couple of minutes looking quietly at the work, then guide them with the prompts below. This section focuses just on describing the artwork rather than interpreting it.

What do you see? Describe it.

Can you use other senses – what do you hear, feel or smell?

What was the first thing you noticed?

Did anything new reveal itself the longer you looked?

Did your eyes rest in one place, or move around the work?

What do you notice about the use of colours, shapes, scale, space, materials, or light?

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THINK – Reasoning with Evidence

Encourage your group to share what they think is happening or what the work might mean. After each point that is made ask for why someone said that. Providing evidence is an important part of thinking critically. You could ask:

What do you think is going on? Why?

What makes you say that?

What did the work remind you of?

What's the most interesting part of the work? Or the safest part?

What do you think the artist might have been thinking or feeling?

What might it mean?

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WONDER – Asking Questions

Open up space for curiosity and inquiry. Prompt young people with:

What does the work make you wonder?

What questions would you like to ask about the work?

If you could ask the artist or the artwork one question, what would it be?

Tips for Teachers

Model curiosity and let young people know there are no right or wrong answers. This routine values observation, evidence-based reasoning, and the questions that emerge from looking closely. Try not to lead young people into specific answers. You might want to summarise findings at the end of each section.

Further Questions you can ask:

What stands out most?

Where does this all take place?

What colour dominates?

Where are elements placed in the work?

Is the work symmetrical, balanced or chaotic?

Is the artwork realistic or abstract?

What part of the work is the most interesting?

What details help you understand the setting or mood?

What do you think the artist is trying to say or express?

Does anything confuse you?

Does anything surprise you?

What happened just before the artist made the work?

Or after they completed it?

Is there anything you would change about the work if you were the artist?

What would you call this artwork if you had to give it a title?

What sound or music would represent the work?

Does the artwork remind you of somewhere you have been or something in your life?

What is happening outside of the frame of the work?

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