



## **Robert West Heritage House and Group of Seven Lessons Primary Grades: Nature / Landscape Art**

### **Lesson D – Art To Start A Story**

**Purpose:** Use a picture as a story starter

**Materials:**

- Copy of some Group of Seven art from various seasons (see **Item D1**)
- Copy of Story Map for each group or student (see **Item D2**)

Display in 4 corners of the classroom one picture from the Group of Seven from each of the 4 seasons.

**Before (Minds On):**

Students circulate and stop at the picture that they prefer.... Either for the season or for the picture itself. If too many students are gravitating to one picture, alternatively request students walk clockwise from picture to picture as you play music. When the music stops, they gather around the closest picture.

There should now be a small group of students who are standing in front of each of the 4 pictures. Each group examines the picture and shares with their group what they see or notice about that painting. Think about the 5 senses. What do they imagine they see, hear, feel, etc. when they look at the painting. Also students might notice what is not in the painting? What does the painting remind them of?

Possible responses: landscape, bright colours, season, movement of wind in the waves or trees, might hear birds or other animals, notice no buildings, no people, peaceful. Teacher circulates and listens to students.

Gather as a whole class as each group shares one or two ideas that they discussed in their group.

**During (Working On It):**

Plan a story using the picture as a setting. Before getting started, ask students to pause and think about the picture and the following questions::

- Who might be there?
- Why are they there?
- Where has the character been before and where are they going?
- How did they get there?

- When did they arrive?
- What might happen?

Using the attached Story Map, students individually decide the main ideas about their story.

**After (Consolidation):**

Students share their story plan with a partner. Partner shares two things that they like and one thing that they think needs more detail.