

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Summer Assignment Due: September 8, 2016

In-coming 10th Grade Summer Assignment

Dear Students,

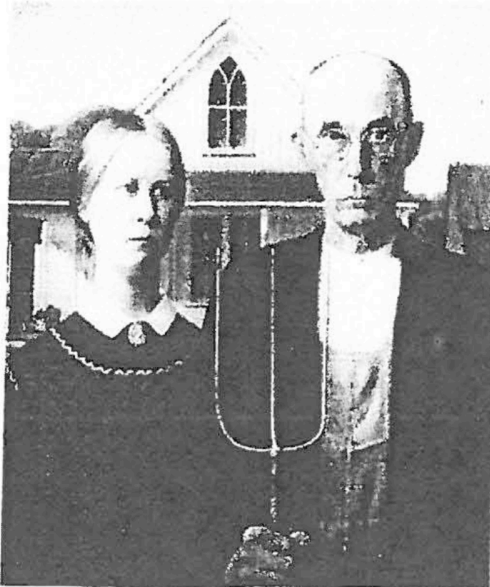
Observation and creativity are two of the skills that you will need to be successful in art. Comprehension and accurately following directions are two more. This assignment is designed to help you practice these skills, while having fun at the same time. Please read all of the directions carefully before beginning. When you have completed your assignment, go back and read the directions again; make sure that you didn't leave anything out.

OBSERVATION

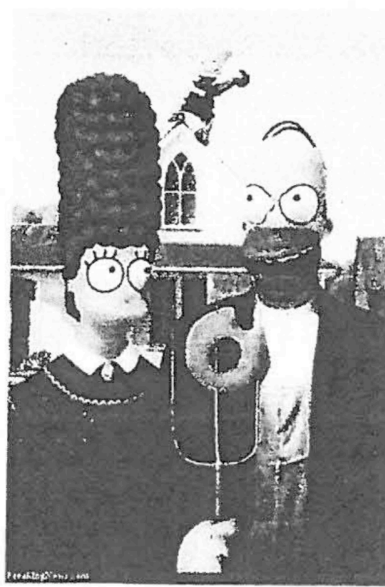
Choose one of the masterpieces from the list on the back. Give the title, artist and date. Describe it in great detail. State everything that you see in the picture, and use a lot of adjectives (descriptive words). Do not say what you don't see, and don't make assumptions. Write in paragraph form. Use proper spelling, punctuation and grammar. For example, a good description of the man in *American Gothic*, below left, would be: *There is a man on the right side of the picture. He is mostly bald and has a thin face with some wrinkles. He is wearing light blue denim overalls, a white shirt, a black jacket, round glasses, and he is holding a pitchfork. He is looking straight at me. We see him and the woman next to him from the waist up.* Notice how I described his face/head with three different adjectives. I mentioned the color and texture of his clothing, as well as the shape of his glasses. I would then go on to describe the woman and what is behind them. An incorrect description would be: *I see a married couple on a farm, but I don't see any animals.* (We don't know that they are married, and a description involves only what you DO see.) *They look angry or sad.* (We don't know that either; they may just be serious.) *He is wearing dark clothes.* (That is not specific enough.)

par•o•dy [par-uh-dee] noun - a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature, writing or art, etc.

Below center and right are two examples of how a famous work of art was altered to portray something from pop culture in a humorous way.



American Gothic, Grant Wood, 1930



MASTERPIECES

Jan Vermeer

The Milkmaid

The Concert

The Astronomer

The Geographer

The Glass of Wine

Gustave Courbet

Bonjour M. Courbet

Mary Cassatt

The Child's Bath

Hughie Lee Smith

Boy with a Tire

The Promise

The artist's name is in bold print, and the titles are in italic (like the title of a book).

CREATIVITY

Use the internet to look at all of the choices before you decide. Select the one that you think will be the most fun to recreate. Consider whether or not you can find or set up a similar location. Do you know a person or people who would be willing to pose for you? Do you have the necessary props?

Create a modern day version of the same scene. For example, if there is a young girl or boy in the picture, ask a friend to pose for you. They should mimic the same poses. Find modern day versions of the objects and furniture in the painting. Position those items similarly in your composition. Is a door or window visible? Try to match the lighting and the framing. Is it shot close up or from far away?

Take a clear photo of the result. Print a copy of it in your report on the same page as the masterpiece, so they can be compared next to each other (or above and below). The two images should fill one page. If they are too small, we will not be able to see the details.

REPORT

Discuss at length the process of setting up your photograph. Who is/are your model/s? What challenges did you face when trying to find similar props and/or background? What compromises did you make? Were there any mishaps or comical moments? How long did the process take?

REMINDER

This project was designed to improve your powers of observation, as well as the other skills mentioned earlier. As an art student, it is also good practice for you to write about art. In addition, you will be acting as a photographer and a set designer, which are two of the many jobs open to someone with a commercial art background. As always, presentation and professionalism mean a lot. Please type your report in 12 pt. Times (or a similar font) double spaced. The written portion should be one and a half to two pages NOT INCLUDING THE PICTURES. Make sure that you include your name and section number. This project will count as 10% of the first marking period grade, so do a good job, and HAVE FUN!