

First Grade

Title: "Blue Boy" (1770)

Artist: Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) England

EALR'S: Arts

1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes- geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).

1.2-Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).

1.3-Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.

1.4-Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.

2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.

2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.

3.1-Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.

3.2-Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.

3.3-Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.

4.2-Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.

4.3-Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.

4.4-Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

Text: A portrait is a picture of a person. The height of English portrait art is represented in this realistic work. The silken creases, rippling lace, boy's hair, and feather plume are excellent for discussions of texture. This is a full-figure portrait with an English landscape for background. It is an example of classic art to compare the goals of artists in that period (to represent exactly what they saw) to the goals of modern artists.

Questions:

1. Is there a story about this painting? "Blue Boy" was painted, it is said, as a reply to a statement to the effect that it was impossible to paint a portrait of a subject dressed entirely in blue. Gainsborough, also an excellent landscape artist, set his figure against an autumnal background of green, bronze, and gold tones, in order to achieve contrast. It is also told that Gainsborough painted "Blue Boy" as a reply to a challenge from Reynolds, another prominent portrait artist of that time. Reynolds said, "Only royalty could look like royalty in royal clothes: and a laborer or peasant would always look like peasant even if dressed in riches..." The model for this portrait was Gainsborough's nephew.

2. What is realism? (Exact representation of what the artist saw; like a camera picture). Do you think it took a long time to paint this picture?

3. What different textures can you find? (Hair, silk fabric, lace, etc.)

4. How would the mood of the picture change if the boy were wearing red? (Warm vs. cool colors).