

Exemplar 24

Looking and responding: 'The Singing Horseman' by Jack B. Yeats

infant classes

Step 1: Looking at and responding to the work

Questions such as the following would help children to focus on the work

- What is this picture about? What is the man doing?
- What is the horse doing? Is it big and strong?
- Are they having fun?
- Do you think the horse seems very near us? Does it feel like he might jump right out of the picture?
- What colour is the horse? Is that a strange colour for a horse? What other colours do you see? Show me.
- What kind of place is this?
- What kind of day is it?
- Where are the darkest parts? Where are the lightest parts?
- Do you think the sun might be shining on any part?
- What is the paint like? Is it thin, thick, smooth, blobby, creamy? What would it feel like?
- Did it ever happen that you were running in the grass and the sun was shining and the wind was blowing in your face and you felt so happy and excited that you just had to shout or burst into song? Let's put the painting on the wall where we can look at it all week.

Step 2: The follow-up

The lesson could end with the above questions, or it could be used as an introduction to an art class:

- Would you like to paint a picture? Let's pretend to be running in the park in the soft grass. Is it sunny? or rainy? or windy? Are there flowers? What colour are they? Are there trees? What else is there? Do you like running? Would you feel like bursting into song? Take a deep breath and let me see what it would be like?... That is what we are going to paint.
- As the children work: If you remember to dry the brushes carefully every time you wash them, you can keep the paint nice and thick and creamy, just as Yeats did.



'The Singing Horseman' by Jack B. Yeats