

Exemplar 25

Looking and responding: 'Surprised! (Tropical Storm with a Tiger)' by Henri Rousseau

first and second classes

Step 1: Looking at and responding to the work

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

- What kind of place is this? Look at it carefully. Pretend you are hiding behind a bush looking out and this is what you see. What do you see first?
- What is the tiger doing? Is he scared or is he about to pounce? Is some of him hidden?
- What kind of day is it? Tell how you know.
- How does the artist show it is raining?
- How does he show that the wind is blowing?
- What direction is the wind coming from?
- How does he show that there is a storm with lightning?
- What colours do you see? Have you ever noticed how red and green look together?
- How does the artist make the tree trunks stand out so clearly?
- Does he make anything else dark against the light?
- How many different kinds of leaves did he make?
- Did he work carefully and smoothly, or is the paint thick and splotchy?

When the children have viewed the piece thoroughly, some appropriate information on the artist could be given, for example his working methods and where he lived and died.

Step 2: The follow-up

Painting themes could include

- The day you were out in a storm
- A weird creature hiding in the jungle.



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