

Millais, Peace Concluded
Deb Bryan, Tippy Madden & Kris Rollwagen

Introduction:

Welcome, I am so glad you are here! My name is Deb and I will be your guide today. As we settle in, I would like to go around and ask that you each introduce yourself to me by telling me your first name. I wish to honor you and your name throughout the morning, so please when I call on you first remind me of your name before contributing to our conversation. Thanks so much in advance for your cooperation.

Today we come together to explore the theme of *family, friends and community*. All the works of art that we will see today are connected to this theme. I wonder if any of you have seen these works of art before in your classroom? Can I have a show of hands of those who have seen them?

Families are unique and are very individual and personal. They can look different from one another. I think we can all agree that we love to be surrounded by people we know who love and care for us, where we feel the most safe and secure.

Where do you feel the most loved and happy?

Who do you like spending the most time with?

What do you think makes a good friend?

We are here today as a community of learners who are exploring the Art Institute. We share a common goal of adventure and are here to inspire your enthusiasm about art and see art from around the world that is tied to our theme.

What different communities are you a part of?

Believe it or not, people across the world feel the same way. This is something that we all share – our connection with family, friends and communities. This cuts across time, geography and culture.

I will now turn you over to Kris who will take us to the first work of art in our theme and continue our conversation.

Key Points:

Let's pause for a moment, let our eyes wander and look more carefully at the many details in this painting...

1. The artist, John Everett Millais, lived long ago in London, England during what was called the Victorian Era (1837 – 1901). He had started this painting while England was fighting with several countries in the Crimean War (1854-1856) and finished it after the War had ended.

What clues do you see in the painting that tell you the War is over? What are each of the little girls holding? Can you find the Noah's Ark toy box? What animals do you see? Which toy animals from the Ark are most noticeable in the painting? What do you think those animals are meant to represent? (Lion/England, Turkey/Turkey, Rooster/France, Bear/Russia and Dove with olive branch/Peace)

2. Millais created the family in this painting to be a model or ideal for the way families were "supposed" to be in the community and time in which he lived. He wanted to highlight the Victorian Ideals of unity, love, duty, honor, harmony, loyalty and patriotism.

How would you describe this family? How are they posed? Can you guess what they might be feeling? What do you see that makes you say that? What other family member is included in the family circle? Has your family ever tried to pose together for a picture?

3. Millais used color and painting techniques to convey warmth, peace, comfort, financial security and a general sense of well-being. He uses deep tones of red and green with warm yellow and brown. He adds richness and texture with pattern and color in the carpet and fabrics. He created a smooth surface using flat, thin brushstrokes. Finishing the painting with varnish increased the brilliance of the colors.

Describe the colors you see in this painting. What do the colors and style of the clothes each person is wearing tell you about this family? What do you see that makes you say that?

Transition:

Now we're leaving a beautiful painting of a family from England, and moving on to another piece that also depicts our theme of *Family, Friends and Community*.

As we walk, try to keep in mind the colors and mood of the painting we just looked at, and then compare it to our next painting which was created by an artist who was from Spain.