Looking at Art: Seeing Questions

Describe it.

How would you describe the formal elements? The texture, form, shape, colour, line, marks.

What kinds of things do you see in this painting? What is happening?

What words would you use to describe this painting? What other words might we use?

Look at this painting for a moment. What observations can you make about it?

How would you describe this painting to a person who could not see it?

How would you describe the people in this picture? Are they like you or different?

How would you describe (the place depicted in) this painting?

How do you think the work has been developed and made?

Relate it.

What does this painting remind you of?

What things do you recognise in this painting? What things seem new to you?

How is this picture different from real life?

What interests you most about this work of art?

How does this picture make you feel? Why do you feel like this?

Analyse it.

Which objects seems closer to you? Further away?

What can you tell me about the colors in this painting?

What color is used the most in this painting?

What makes this painting look crowded?

What can you tell me about the person in this painting?

What can you tell me about how this person may have lived? How did you arrive at that idea?

What do you think is the most important part of this picture?

How do you think the artist made this work?

What questions would you ask the artist about this work, if s/he were here?

Interpret it.

What title would you give to this painting? What made you decide on that title?

What other titles could we give it?

What do you think is happening in this painting? What else could be happening?

What sounds would this painting make (if it could)?

What do you think is going on in this picture? How did you arrive at that idea?

What do you think this painting is about? How did you come up that idea?

Pretend you are inside this painting. What does it feel like?

What do you think this (object) was used for? How did you arrive at that idea?

Why do you suppose the artist made this painting? What makes you think that?

What do you think it would be like to live in this painting? What makes you think that?

Evaluate it.

What do you think is good about this painting? What is not so good?

Do you think the person who painted this do a good or bad job? What makes you think so?

Why do you think other people should see this work of art?

What do you think other people would say about this work? Why do you think that?

What grade would you give the artist for this work? How did you arrive at that grade?

What would you do with this work if you owned it?

What do you think is worth remembering about this painting?