

Meet the Masters
November Program

Grade K People in Art

Norman Rockwell "The Dugout"

About the Artist:

Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) was an American artist. His paintings are considered illustrations because he told stories about people through his art. Rockwell's paintings depict everyday Americans, usually from small towns involved in typical routine activities.

Rockwell began his career in 1916 at a studio in New Rochelle, New York at the age of 21. This was his first job drawing cover illustrations for a boy's magazine. His friend, a fellow cartoonist suggested that he take his sketches to the Saturday Evening Post Magazine. He did, and got the job of cover illustrator for the once nationally popular magazine. Rockwell also produced the art for many advertisements. "The Four Freedoms" a well known series of oil paintings.

Rockwell was born in New York City. He studied at the Chase School of Art, the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League. His work has appeared in "Boys Life", "St. Nicholas", "American Boy", and other magazines and in books for children.

Artwork Overview:

"The Dugout" was painted in 1948 and is one of Norman Rockwell's many paintings of life in small town America. The people in his paintings look so real because Rockwell painstakingly recreated them from models or photographs of models chosen for every face. He would draw endless sketches for each figure in the painting. This is how he was able to make every individual look like the real people that they represent.

You can tell by the facial expressions and the pose of the figures that this Chicago baseball team is not having a good day. The entire painting tells a story that can be read without words or captions.

Topics for Discussion:

This Norman Rockwell painting is so vivid and clear in this scene that a great deal of discussion will take place with student in the classroom. You could be prepared with questions that will direct the discussion and lead you into the Hands-on assignment.

1. Does this painting look real to you?
2. Do you think the artist is telling a story in this painting?
3. How do you think these people feel in this scene?
4. Can you think of a story you could tell in a picture?
5. Think carefully about how you would tell your story in pictures.
6. Who would your story be about?
7. Where will the story take place? (playground, school, at a friends house, home)

Hands On Art Activity: Draw Your Story

Materials:

Oil pastels

Paper 11" x 14" colored construction paper works well

Directions:

1. After discussing the Norman Rockwell painting talk to the children about how they could tell a story with pictures.
2. Children should start the drawing with the main characters in the story.
3. The "setting" or location where the story takes place can be drawn around the figures.
4. Please be sure all of the space on the paper is filled.
5. Oil pastels can smear and be messy so ask the children not to rub the drawings
6. Be sure to wash with soap and water when finished.
7. The children should write their name on the front of the drawing.