

# **Stepping *into* the Painting**

This Drama technique is an Artful way to work through topics such as:

- Setting, character, plot, theme, and compare/contrast in Reading
- Symmetry, patterns, and angles in Math
- Symmetry, patterns, tone, color in Art

## **Stepping into the Painting Technique**

- 1.) Choose a master work of art that has a focus on a topic that you are studying in a subject area (ie: Kandinsky and geometric shapes). A reference to find appropriate works is [www.googleartproject.com](http://www.googleartproject.com) . This site will let you tour images from museums around the world and save the image to your own private "collection".
- 2.) Display the art image on a large screen or by poster (whichever medium you have access to) and have use the See, Think, Wonder chart to capture student reflections.
- 3.) Have students choose one item from the artwork to imitate with their body. Their body needs to show how that object lives within the artwork (ie: Is it on a high, medium or low level? Does it relate to any other object? What shape does it take?) Give them 10 seconds to choose their item.
- 4.) Allow students to create that object with their body for 15 seconds. Then, have students think-pair-share what object they became and how they used their bodies to show it.
- 5.) Gather students back together and have each student choose one item from the painting without repeats. Go around the classroom and ask students what objects they chose. If someone "takes" their object, they need to choose a new one.
- 6.) Tell students that when you say "action!" they will have 15 seconds to recreate the image using their bodies to create their selected image. When you say "freeze", the students become still.
- 7.) Once students are frozen into their living portrait, tell students that you will now select one student to walk through the painting and begin to tell a story about what is happening, based on what they see. When that person is ready to pass the story onto someone else, they can tap them gently on the shoulder and take their place as the object.
- 8.) The next person can then continue the story. This continues until everyone has had a turn.

*Provided by Susan Riley, Arts Integration Specialist, Division of Curriculum and Instruction*