

Activity

Every Picture Tells a Story

Mary Cassatt's paintings often give us a glimpse into someone's home. Usually, without being noticed. It's like looking through the keyhole of a door. We see little slices of life that tell us a story. This game gives you the fun of making up a story about what you see in Cassatt's painting *Young Mother Sewing*. Take a good look. You'll discover that in this picture someone does notice that we are watching them!

Here's What You'll Need

10 index cards
Pencil or pen
A painting or photo
2 or more players
Your imagination

1 Mary Cassatt's painting of this little girl patiently waiting is full of mystery. What could she be thinking? And what's going on outside, in the woods? Hmmmm...

Study Cassatt's painting for a few minutes then get out your index cards. Write one phrase on each card that begins a statement about the scene in the picture.



Young Mother Sewing by Mary Cassatt

Here are some suggestions for your cards:

The name(s) of the person (people) in this picture is (are) _____.

They have just finished _____.

Next they will _____.

What we can't see in this picture is _____.

The orange flowers are from _____.

The little girl feels _____ because _____.

The good news is _____.

Soon they will leave to go to _____.

If only they knew _____.

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2 To play bring out the picture so that everyone can see it. Place the index cards face down and shuffle them. The first player chooses a card and reads the statement out loud. He or she fills in the blank in the statement by making up a bit of the story based on the action in the picture. The next player chooses a card, repeats the story already told, then reads the statement on this card and adds on to the story. Take turns adding to the story until all the cards are used.

Try this game using any painting or photograph. If there are no people in the scene, use statements such as: "This place is called _____."



A Cup of Tea by Mary Cassatt



This Activity is from the author of:
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For more fun projects and artful games from this author go to CarolBooks.net

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Mary Cassatt

Mary Cassatt was born in Pennsylvania on May 22, 1844. She grew up enjoying all the comforts of an upper-middle-class home. Servants handled the chores, and a nanny looked after Mary, her brothers, and a sister. By the time she was 16 Mary knew she wanted to be an artist. This presented a problem for her father, who thought studying art for a while was one thing, but in the 1800s no respectable woman in America would make a career of it. Once Mr. Cassatt recovered from the shock, Mary began her studies. When she was 22 she moved to Paris.

Mary Cassatt painted what she knew best -- life at home. More than anything Cassatt loved to paint images of children, often with their mothers. Her sister, Lydia, also posed for many of her pieces, as in *The Cup of Tea* (seen above).