

Art Gallery/Art Criticism Questions for Early Elementary

Color:

1. Which painting is very light?
2. When an artist mixes white with colors, the artist makes a tint. Can you show me some places in these paintings where there are tints?
3. When an artist mixes black with a color, a shade is created. Can you show me some places in this painting where there are shades?
4. Can you show me some places where tints and shades are used right next to each other? Artists call this positioning contrast.
5. Which artwork has bright colors on one side and dark colors on the other?

Value:

1. Can you show me some tints in some of the artworks?
2. Can you show me some shades in some of the artworks?
3. Is there a person (or other object) in a dark room or place? Where is the light coming from in the picture?
4. Help me find some big, dark shapes that are around some objects. Can you trace in the dark shapes with your finger?
5. Which artwork uses light and dark shapes of color that look very flat?

Line:

1. Lines can go in many directions. Can you find vertical lines? Can you find horizontal lines?
2. Which lines separate two areas of color?
3. Can you find some places where lines cross one another?
4. Lines can have color. Where in the artworks can you find colored lines?
5. Which artworks use lines to show the edges of things?

Shape/Form:

1. When a line comes around and meets where it began, it makes a shape. Find a line that makes a shape in _____'s painting. How many can you find?
2. Which artwork has many squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles? Can you find some other shapes too?
3. Do any of the artworks have shapes with hard edges? Soft edges?
4. What artwork looks like it has shapes cut from paper?
5. Which artwork looks very, very long?
6. Which artworks look very, very flat?
7. Which artworks are not flat (sculptures)?

Texture:

1. Where in the artworks are there both rough and smooth parts?
2. Which artwork looks as if the artist used very thick paint to make texture?
3. How would you describe the texture of _____, _____, _____, and the _____ (name of objects).
4. In which artwork can you see the artist's brushstrokes?
5. In the tapestry (or certain paintings), we can see different kinds of textured clothing/material. If we touched the tapestry, how do you think it would really feel?

Space:

1. Look at the two _____s in _____'s painting. Which one looks closer? Why? (size)
2. Describe all the things in front of the _____ in the painting.
3. Is your _____ bigger or smaller than the one in the painting? What makes you think so?
4. Two of the paintings have people in them. Which of the people look furthest away? Why? (size and placement higher in the picture plane_
5. What words would you use to describe _____'s sculpture that would tell us about its size and weight? Can you point to some spaces inside the sculpture?