

How to Use THE CARDS

Start by spreading the images out and let people pick which art they want to discuss. Or, select one card ahead of time for your small group. [Note: Paper and pen may be needed for a drawing activity.]

OBSERVE

Look at the art together and begin by asking the first question, “What do you notice?” You can easily expand on that question by asking, “What story is the artist telling?” or “Is there anything you would like to ask the artist?” Be sure to read the topic title and attribution before going on to question 2.

Listen

Pay attention to what everyone says about the art and the topic. If you are facilitating the discussion, occasionally restate what someone has said. Listen for a new perspective.

SHARE

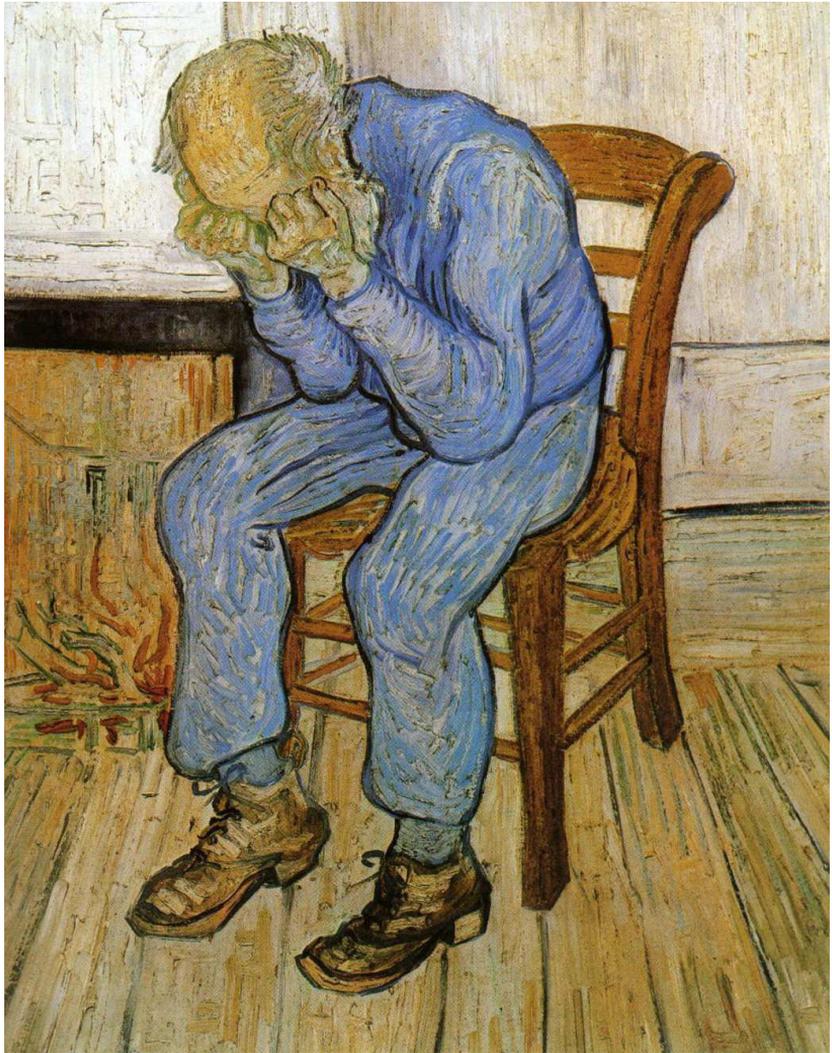
While discussing the topic, share experiences, feelings, thoughts, and pictures with each other. Everyone should have a chance to contribute. Don't be afraid of feeling uncomfortable.

GROW

As we journey together while looking at art and discussing vital topics, we hope to grow in empathy, compassion, truth, and peace. Mother Teresa said, “If we have not peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

TABLE OF Contents

1. **ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE** *Woman Taken in Adultery*
2. **CREATIVITY** *Summer*
3. **END OF LIFE** *Sorrowing Old Man*
4. **FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT** *The Water Carrier of Seville*
5. **GENEROSITY VS. GREED** *Generosity versus Greed*
6. **A GOOD NAME** *Surcoat*
7. **HAPPY HOUR** *Youth Kneeling and Holding Out a Wine Cup*
8. **HATERS GONNA HATE** *The Three Races or Equality before the Law*
9. **HERO STORY** *Mosaic of Christ*
10. **HONOR YOUR PARENTS** *My Parents After 40 Years of Marriage*
11. **LET YOURSELF BE SEEN** *Orphan Girl at the Cemetery*
12. **MANAGING TIME** *Part of the Qingming Scroll*
13. **MUSIC: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE** *The Guitar Player*
14. **A NEW BEGINNING** *Sphinx of Hatshepsut*
15. **PERFORMANCE** *A Lady Playing the Tanpura*
16. **PURSUING INTIMACY AND PLEASURE IN SEX** *The Kiss*
17. **RISK** *St. Paul in Prison*
18. **THE RHYTHM OF LIFE** *The Young Amphibians*
19. **SATISFYING FRIENDSHIPS** *The Banjo Lesson*
20. **SIGNIFICANCE: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?** *Page from Illuminated Gospel*
21. **A SINGLE STORY** *Willow Tree*
22. **SCREAM!** *The Scream*
23. **VANITAS** *Still Life with Bouquet and Skull*
24. **WE LOVE BEAUTY** *Portrait of a Young Man*
25. **WHAT DO WE ADORE?** *Relief Sculpture*

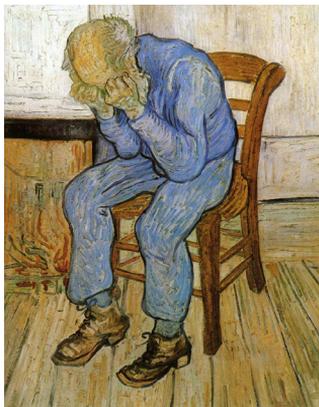


END OF LIFE

Sorrowing Old Man (At Eternity's Gate), 1890.

Vincent van Gogh, Dutch.

Kroller Muller Museum, Otterlo.



1. What do you notice in this work of art?
2. Life is full of sorrow and sadness at times. How do you cope with sorrow?
3. Choose *a* or *b* below:
 - a. Psychologist Shawn Achor found that people are happy based on their attitudes, regardless of their circumstances. Certain habits like journaling, exercising, and meditating contribute to a happy attitude. Which of these practices do you regularly engage in? Which do you want to engage in?
 - b. King Solomon reflected on life and wrote, “This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot” (Ecclesiastes 5:18). How can Solomon’s advice help us in times of sadness?
4. Van Gogh felt that the Old Man, who experienced deep emotion as he approached death, also had a sense of an eternal home. In fact, he believed that the Old Man contemplating death was evidence for the existence of God. What do you think? Draw a picture or find a digital image displaying your view of sorrow and happiness.



Satisfying Friendships

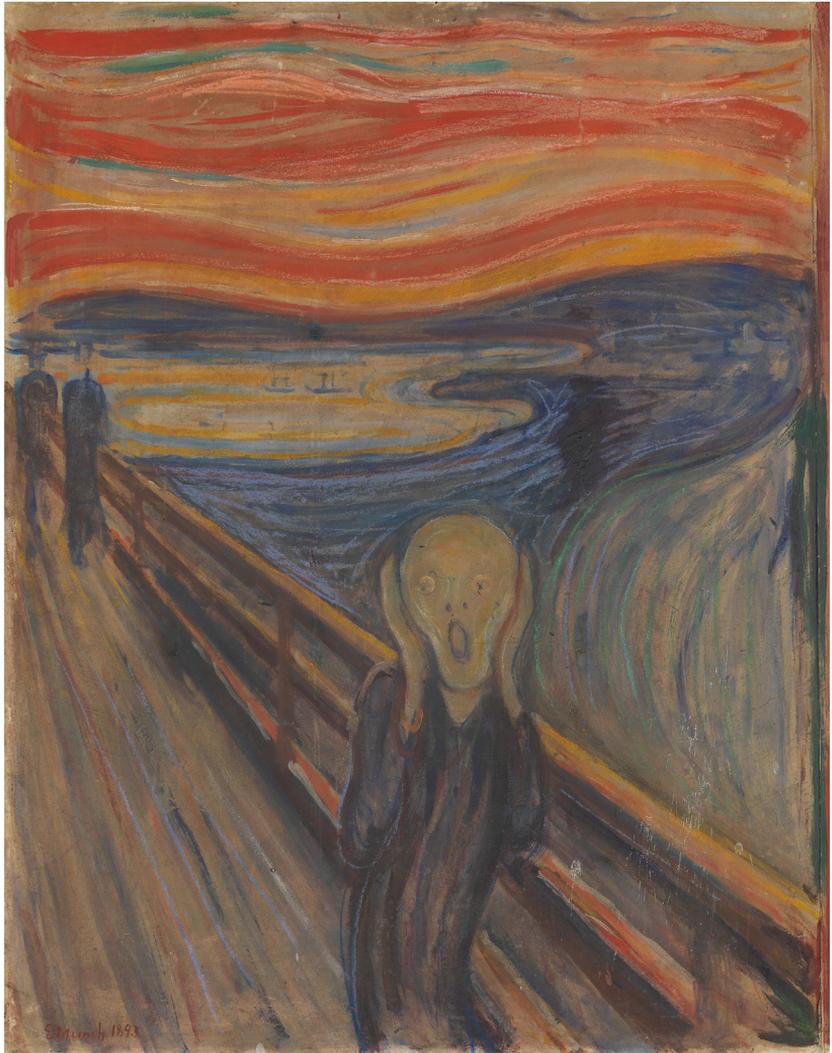
The Banjo Lesson, 1893.

Henry Ossawa Tanner, American.

Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia.



1. What do you notice in this work of art?
2. Friendships usually happen with peers, although not exclusively. You might be friends with someone of a different age. Tell about a friendship with someone outside of your peer group and how it has been meaningful to you.
3. Choose *a* or *b* below:
 - a. Kahlil Gibran said, “Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity.” Tell what the quote is saying about friendship.
 - b. Solomon wrote, “You can trust a friend who corrects you, but kisses from an enemy are nothing but lies” (Proverbs 27:6, CEV). What do you think this proverb is saying about friendship?
4. Look at the painting again. In the background, notice the pitcher and bread on the table. Sharing food is often a symbol of friendship. Draw a picture or find a digital image symbolizing friendship.



Scream!

The Scream, 1895.
Edvard Munch, Norwegian.
The Munch Museum, Oslo.



1. What do you notice in this work of art?
2. Why do you think people sometimes feel like screaming? Tell a story about when you screamed.
3. Choose *a* or *b* below:
 - a. Nobel Prize-winning author Elias Canetti wrote, “All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams.” What do you think he means? Is there anything that screams at you?
 - b. One night, Jesus’s disciples were rowing across the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water coming toward them. They screamed in terror, thinking they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said, “Take courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). When he climbed into the boat, the storm died down. How might Jesus and his words give us courage in the midst of life’s storms?
4. Edvard Munch described what inspired his painting: “My friends went on—I stood there trembling with anxiety—and I felt a vast infinite scream [tear] through nature.” Draw a picture or find a digital image of people screaming. Tell what may have prompted the scream.