

LEAVING FOR THE COUNTRY: GEORGE BELLWS AT WOODSTOCK

Bellows – the artist

- Letter of introduction
- A Rugged Poet in Paint
- Photograph of the Bellows family
- The World According to Bellows
- The Woodstock Whirl
- *The boy who chose the brush over baseball* (Smithsonian, June 1992)

Transparency of *Evening Group* and *Autumn Brook*

Evening Group

- Information about the painting
- Learning to Look: What is going on in this picture?
- Looking to Learn about Families, Communities, People and Place
 - * Social Studies: Gathering Information
 - * ELA: Looking and Writing
 - * Art: Making a Picture
- Photocopy of artist's sketch for *Evening Group*

Autumn Brook

- Information about the painting
- Learning to Look: What is going on in this picture?
- Looking to Learn About Places in New York State
 - * Social Studies: Gathering Information
 - * ELA: Looking and Writing
 - * Art: Making a Picture

*Lesson for the classroom – for use with transparency



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Evening Group (1914)

LEARNING TO LOOK: WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS PICTURE?

- Who are these people?
What are they doing?
How are they dressed?
Where are they?
How did they get there?
- When do you think this picture was painted?
- Are these people a family?
Are they here together?
Do they know each other?
Are they talking to, or looking at, each other?
- What is going to happen next?
- Where is the artist?
Does he know these people?
- What has the artist arranged in the foreground, the middle ground and the background?
- Describe the composition, the colors, the shapes and the lines used by the artist.
How many shades of blue has the artist used?
- Is this a realistic picture or one invented from his imagination?



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Evening Group (1914)

LOOKING TO LEARN ABOUT FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Social Studies: Gathering information

- Interview an older member of your family about a favorite vacation.
- Make a family photo time line.
- Research activities that families of the past engaged in. (See photographs from Rochester's past at Rochester Images, (www.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rochpublib))
- Compare and contrast family activities of the past with those of the present.
- How has technology changed communication, transportation and recreation?

ELA: Looking and Writing

- Put yourself into the picture. What are you doing? How does it feel to be there? Write a journal entry about one day on vacation at Monhegan Island.
- Choose a figure from the painting. What is he or she thinking? Write a journal entry for him or her.
- Who are these people and why are they together in this place? What is going to happen next? Write a narrative that tells their story.
- What is your favorite vacation memory? Keep a journal when you go on your next vacation. Include some sketches of places, people and activities.
- Make a list of the words that come to your mind as you look at *Evening Group*. Create a poem that uses some or all of those words.



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Evening Group (1914)

Art: Making a Picture

- Where is your favorite place? Describe it in words and draw a picture of yourself there. What colors capture your feelings about the place?
- Study how Bellows has organized *Evening Group*.
Which is the main figure and how does he emphasize this through placement, gestures, color, size or reaction of the other people? How has he arranged the other figures in the foreground?
What is in the middle ground? What is in the background?
- Do you have a community of friends, perhaps from summer camp or a sports team?
Draw a “portrait” of this group.
Organize the drawing or painting so that it reveals the important details about your group.
- Make a tableau vivant (living picture) of *Evening Group*.
What do you learn by enacting the scene? Were the poses natural or awkward? What is the relationship among the people? Where is the artist? What props do you need?
- The next page is a photocopy of George Bellows’s sketch for *Evening Group*. A sketch is a type of “first draft” that an artist uses before beginning a painting. What are the similarities and differences between the sketch and the finished painting?



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