



Suggested for Grade 3 and up, or the entire family!

## Word Spill:

—An inspiration for your own verbal creativity

Double your vocabulary and write a poem!



Look at the painting *Peeling Onions* and 15 words below. Write a word or phrase in association to each of the words and the artwork.

- Draw lines connecting the words that work together.
- Try writing a poem based on the painting using some of or all of the words.

Lilly Martin Spencer (American, 1822–1902)  
*Peeling Onions*, ca 1852  
Oil on canvas

Gift of the Women's Council in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Memorial Art Gallery, 88.6

Pungent

Tear

Chicken

Knife

Blue

Slice

Fruit

Harvest

Table

Cloth

Far away

Sounds

Hour

Absent

Thought

More *Word Spill* on the next page . . .

# Another Way to Enjoy *Word Spill*

**Can you use your words to describe an artwork to someone who has not seen it? Let's try!**

**STEP 1: Pick a work of art that speaks to you.** (Browse [MAG's Collection](#) or choose an artwork in your home or a picture from your favorite book.)

**STEP 2: Use the list below for brainstorming.** In each category, come up with two or three words or phrases for your observations and thoughts. You will need nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

*What kind of objects do you see?*

*Which emotions do you recognize in the artwork? (e.g. loneliness, satisfaction, etc.)  
How does it make you feel?*

*What sounds and smells come to your mind (e.g. bells ringing, pungent onion, etc.)?*

*What is happening in the artwork?*

*What colors do you see?*

*What time of day, month, and season of year do you think this is?*

*Ask a question of the artwork (its characters or scene) and record your question.  
Perhaps you imagine a response from the artwork, and record that too!*

**STEP 3: On a piece of paper, scatter all your words or phrases randomly.**

**STEP 4: Choose one word to start your writing. Then continue connecting the words.** You can repeat a phrase to start each line, or as a refrain. Your writing can be a story, or a lyrical series of ideas and images.

*Word Spill* was created by M.J. Iuppa, poet, essayist, short storyist, and Director of the Arts Program at St. John Fisher College.