

# How to Do a Picture Study

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Picture study is something that starts slowly and becomes deeper over time, regardless of age of student. The initial goal is the same, to give them a "gallery" of beautiful art in their mind. Keep this goal in mind in early study. Also be aware that you will be working on narration and composition, and some art history and art skills-even though these aren't the goal. You should choose 6 of the works to study for a term. Week 1 have the student's study the print for several minutes, until they believe they see everything. Then turn the print to face you, and have one narrate the picture. You may ask them to clarify or describe something in more detail. When the first student has finished, ask another student if they have anything to add, asking questions to clarify or describe in more detail. Continue until all have narrated. Then turn the picture back over and discuss any thing that was fuzzy, or thing they might have missed. If you have time, you might discuss appropriate biographical points-although this isn't necessary if using a biography.

The following week, using the same picture, have the students study the work again. Their narrations should include only new insights. This is a shorter process so you have multiple other ideas or options you might use. You might have the student do a creative fiction oral narration (storytelling) based on the art from week 1, or you can do a rough picture of where things are in the picture, or relative size, colors, light (whatever seems important to you) or you can have the student recreate a small part of the work.

You would repeat the process with Works number 2-6 over the 12 week term.

Any questions on the early stages of picture study-or comments? This is for those new to picture study or those in form 1 and most children in form 2.