

THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION: Luncheon of the Boating Party. (*Teaching Kit/\$30*), *The Phillips Collection Education Programs.*

One would be hard-pressed to find a resource that provided a more in-depth means to explore and understand a famous work of art than the *Luncheon of the Boating Party* teaching kit. Created by the Phillips Collection's Education Department in collaboration with four "best practices" Phillips mentor teachers, there is enough user-friendly information in this product to keep a teacher and students busy for weeks.

One would believe Pierre-Auguste Renoir would be flattered to find the attention given to his masterpiece, from biographies of the painting's subjects to multiple ways and means to use the information. The text for the kit is written for high-school-level students, but the subject information is appropriate for K-12, and provides approaches

across the curriculum. Subject areas include Impressionism, art history, French culture and language, critical thinking, analyzing and interpreting.

The attention and detail given to the complete story of the painting truly come from the heart of the authors. From the Renoir biography to the background of the Phillips Collection, the joy of presenting the full story of this beautiful painting is apparent. The kit provides sections about painting style, technique and a cultural context devoted to the specific painting, but in a manner that would prepare one for analyzing any painting.

The kit includes numerous primary sources, which are formatted as posters, transparencies, worksheets and a CD-ROM. Users are invited to photocopy the contents and lesson plans, project suggestions and assignments, handouts, and, in a wonderful touch, examples of completed teaching

units with student art are all provided in sections called "teaching tips and tools," which are based on national teaching standards. This highly recommended kit is one of a series (a quickly growing series, it's hoped), each of which are reasonably priced.—P.H.

www.phillipscollection.org | circle # 393

MIXING COLORS IS FUN (2007; \$3.99), by Stacy Chambers. *Barron's Educational Series, Inc.*

This is one of a book series that provides a phonics approach to reading. Its use in art instruction for the primary grades is limited in that its emphasis is a simple "fun" encounter in mixing colors to match forms in everyday experience. The book's text (level 3) deals with vowel combinations and words ending in "y." Books at level 1 introduce short-vowel sounds; level 2 books progress to long-vowel sounds. There is an appropriately childlike approach dealing with mixing and matching colors. Also included are "fun facts about colors," suggested readings, a Web site reference, a glossary of key terms in the book and a word list (challenging, decodable and high-frequency words). Overall, this is an inexpensive "workbook" that may be of use for a grade 1 or 2 classroom teacher with little or no experience in art. A good elementary school art teacher will be able to accomplish so much more in the understanding and appreciation of color without the use of this book.—J.J.H.

www.barronseduc.com | circle # 400

MAKING ART TOGETHER: How Collaborative Art-Making Can Transform Kids, Classrooms and Communities (2006; \$26.95), by Mark Cooper and Lisa Sjostrom. *Beacon Press.*

More often than not, our thinking about art activity involves individuals as they work on their own distinctive projects. We celebrate the uniqueness of artists as they do their work. It is also important that we pay attention to the many artistic accomplishments involving collaborations and communal

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