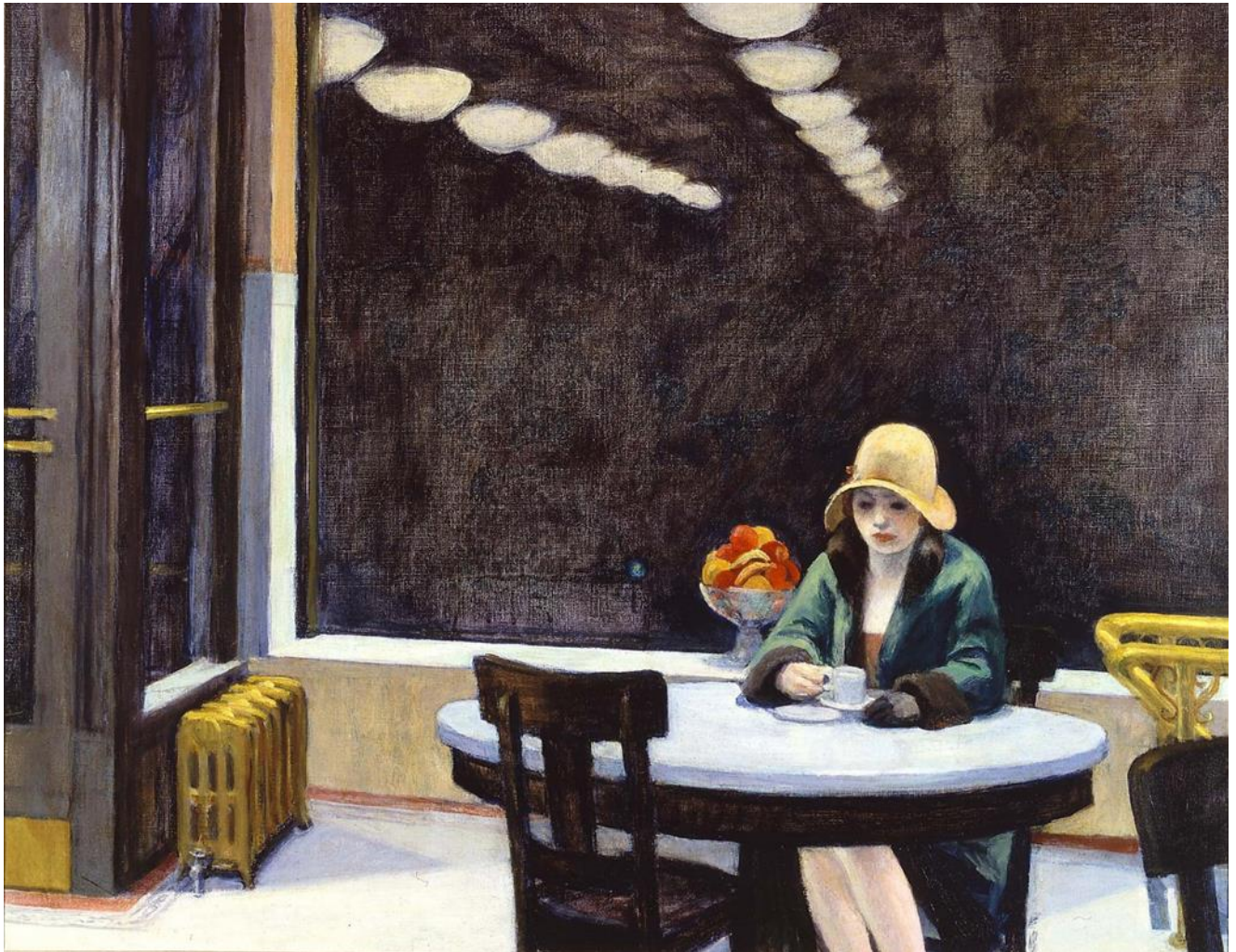


ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

IDEAS + ACTIVITIES

MOOD + HOPPER

VIEW



Let us begin with careful looking. Spend one whole minute quietly figuring out what we see. Scan the image. What stands out? What are you drawn to? Look for colors, shapes and lines. What is in the background, the foreground? What objects can you identify? What appears mysterious? Is there anything you notice after looking for one minute that you did not see at first glance?

Edward Hopper (American, 1882 - 1967)
Automat, 1927

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;
Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art
Foundation, Inc., 1958.2

Photo Credit: Rich Sanders, Des Moines
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ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

MOOD + HOPPER

DIG

Let's go back to the painting on page one and try another slow looking practice. You will spend one minute looking and writing a list of ten things that you notice. These can be any words; nouns, adjectives, or verbs that you see, feel, or sense from the painting. When the one minute is up, and you have listed everything you can, do it again! Spend just one more minute looking at the artwork and really dig to find ten more words inspired by your looking.

First Minute – Ten Words

Second Minute – Ten Words

Was listing these words easy or challenging?

Did anything surprise you after your second time looking?

Did you see anything you had not noticed before?

What happens when you spend more time looking at one piece of artwork?

ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

MOOD + HOPPER

DISCUSS

What details in the painting do you think are most important and why? What catches your attention and what makes you wonder?

When you look at this painting what kinds of feelings are you reminded of? What are some of the things that Hopper does in the painting to give it a mood? Where do the feelings in the painting come from; the woman, her environment or both? Can you relate to the feelings in the painting?

It's fun to look at Edward Hopper's paintings and imagine a story. Like characters in a movie paused, we can find ourselves wondering what just happened or what will happen next. If this painting was part of a story would it be the beginning, middle, or end? What twist could you add to change this woman's story?

ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

MOOD + HOPPER

CREATE

ASSIGNMENT #1

Three Mood Story | Writing

Create a short story where the mood moves the plot!

MATERIALS

Paper

Pen or Pencil

INSTRUCTIONS

The first step in creating your three mood story is to pick three moods. Any moods at all. Silly, scared, happy, nervous, angry – any three moods you want to explore. Write them on a separate piece of paper.

These moods will become your story's beginning, middle, and end, so now arrange them in the order that you would like to have your story follow. Which mood do you want to set the stage? Do you want a happy ending? It's up to you but decide the order before you begin writing your story.

You are now ready to write your story – but here is a tricky challenge. You cannot write the name of your three moods anywhere in your story. You will need to use clues, actions, colors, and character's facial expressions to convey which mood is happening in your story.

Here is a small example:

Amy woke up and jumped out of bed singing! She could hear the birds outside, the sun was shining, and her eyes were already bright. Amy's heart felt warm thinking about her day ahead.

Can you guess my beginning mood? It is joyful! You might have thought happy, excited, or cheerful because those moods are a lot like joy.

Now it's your turn. How will your moods create a story, shaping its beginning, middle, and end?

ASSIGNMENT #2

Inside Outside Art | Visual Art

Make a paper window scene thinking about looking in and looking out.

INSTRUCTIONS

You are going to be making a piece of art inspired by Edward Hopper's scenes. When you are done, it will look like a window you can look in or out of.

Start with one sheet of paper. Draw a great big square or circle in the middle. Make sure you don't draw all the way to the edge of the paper because the edge will be the important part.

Using scissors carefully cut the shape out of the middle – leaving the paper around it whole. Start by carefully poking your scissors through the middle so you can cut the shape out. You will throw away the inside shape and keep the paper border.

Draw and color on the paper border. Make it look like the outside of a house. Maybe draw shutters around your window, siding or bricks on the house, a roof on the top, a tree or a bird. Be careful because the paper will be fragile.

Flip the paper frame over and draw the inside around the window. Does the inside have wallpaper or curtains? What would be in this room on the wall around the window?

Now set this aside and draw on the second sheet of paper that has not been cut. You will draw on one side what you see outside. This will be from the perspective of looking OUT the window. Where are we - A city, a garden, a farm? Is there a volcano or outer space? Outside can include lots of things like rainbows and animals; what will you draw outside?

Now flip this piece of paper over and draw an inside picture. This can be any inside - a bedroom, kitchen, restaurant, a movie theater, a place totally made up and amazing! Will there be people? What will they be doing?

When you are done you will have two pieces of paper. One with a cut out in the middle and one whole. And you will have four drawings. One on each side of two pieces of paper.

This next step will turn your drawings into a fun, interactive art piece. Lay your papers on top of each other, so that you are looking through the outside window into the inside drawing. You should be able to peek through your window and see the scene inside.

Take a couple pieces of tape and put them over the top edge of the pictures, taping them together. If you only tape on the top edge you can now flip your paper over like a book page, and see your scene change so that you are now inside looking out! You can add another piece of tape across the top to keep it secure and your artwork is all done!

MATERIALS

Two pieces of paper
the same size

Scissors

Tape

Drawing supplies

ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

MOOD + HOPPER

RELATE

Look online at other works of art created by [Edward Hopper](#).

Do you think that creating a mood in his paintings was important to Hopper?

Does the mood feel different or the same in other paintings of his? In what ways?

What are some things Hopper does in the painting to achieve mood?

This [60 second video](#) by the Royal Academy of Arts shows more works by Hopper.

The director Tim Marlow talks about what he thinks the meaning inside of Hopper's paintings might be. He ties the art to the American history of the Great Depression, the feeling of loneliness and makes us wonder what the figures in Hopper's painting might be "contemplating", which means *thinking about*.

Have you ever seen *Automat* by Edward Hopper before? Maybe you have seen another painting of his titled [Nighthawks](#)? Both are incredibly famous paintings. Have you ever thought about what it would feel like to make a piece of art that becomes famous? To make a painting that millions of people have seen? If these paintings are famous, are the people in the paintings famous too? How do you think these diner guests feel about being famous?

Do you still think they feel lonely?

Edward Hopper, 'Nighthawks' (1942) (Photo: Public domain via [Wikipedia](#))

ART CENTER LESSON PLAN

MOOD + HOPPER

WONDER

Now that you have spent time viewing and thinking about Edward Hopper's painting *Automat*, what do you still wonder about this work? If you could ask the artist or the painting anything what would you want to know most? Use the question starters below to write three questions.

Why is...	I am curious about...	What part....	Are we...
Who is...	How did you...	What if...	Is she...
Where...	Did you know...	Suppose that...	Do you...

My questions about Edward Hopper's *Automat*

1.

2.

3.