

THE CLARK CONNECTS

A LIGHTER LOOK

INTRODUCTION

Art can move, inspire, and educate us, but it can also be a great source of entertainment. While some artists intentionally include humor in their creations, many other works of art can be interpreted in ways that are clever, unexpected, or just plain fun . . . if you use a little imagination.

Ready to try? Give yourself a creative break as you enjoy a lighter look at the Clark's collection!



Kingdon, after Winslow Homer, *Low Tide*, from *Every Saturday*, vol. 1, August 6, 1870. Wood engraving on newsprint. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.4053.

HOW TO PLAY

Print out this document, open the PDF in a program that allows you to add text, or sketch the images and write in words by hand. You'll find a few artworks perfect for inspiring some creative fun in the pages that follow. Once you've enjoyed these examples, explore the Clark's [digital collection](#) to find new images to play with.

SHARE A PICTURE OF YOUR PLAYFUL INTERPRETATION WITH US!
TAG @CLARKART AND USE #CLARKART ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

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The Clark's collection includes many paintings and works on paper by the American artist Winslow Homer.

In addition to being a painter, Homer was also a prolific illustrator. His depictions of serious and silly subjects alike frequently featured in publications like the magazine *Harper's Weekly*, where a written caption might accompany each illustration.

How would you caption these images? The words you choose can be as whimsical or witty as you desire.

After you finish writing, take a look at the bottom of the page to read the captions that appeared with these illustrations when they were first published.



HOW DO YOUR CAPTIONS
COMPARE WITH THE ORIGINALS?

After Winslow Homer, *The Noon Recess*, from *Harper's Weekly*, vol. 17, June 28, 1873. Wood engraving on newspaper. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.1472.

After Winslow Homer, *Bathing at Long Branch*—“Oh, Ain't It Cold,” From *Every Saturday*, vol. 3, August 27, 1871. Wood engraving on newspaper. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1941, 1955.4059.

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The Spanish artist Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta excelled at genre paintings, or art that features moments from everyday life. His skill at painting textures and tiny details makes the scenes in *Woman with a Parrot* (left) and *Confidences* (right) look especially convincing. If you could step into these paintings, what might you overhear? Use the speech bubbles to create conversations between these figures.



Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta, detail of *Woman with a Parrot*, c. 1872. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1934, 1955.800.



Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta, detail of *Confidences*, c. 1870. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1940, 1955.798.

CLICK EACH TITLE TO VIEW THE FULL PAINTINGS BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR CONVERSATIONS.

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Some landscape artists choose to include figures in their paintings to help us imagine how a person might experience and react to a particular natural scene. The shepherdess in George Inness's *Green Landscape* has turned her head, perhaps to admire the sunlit trees or keep an eye on her calf.

What might be going on in the shepherdess's mind? What does she think about this place? Go ahead and imagine some thoughts for the calf, too.

George Inness, *Green Landscape*, 1886. Oil on canvas.
Gift of Frank and Katherine Martucci, 2013, 2013.1.5.



OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

Having fun? Pass it on! Print out a Clark artwork, add some silly speech bubbles, and send it to a friend, or be playful with your favorite painting or print by using it as a reaction image in a group chat.

Though these activities are easy to enjoy from home, remember that you can also continue looking at art in a playful way the next time you are able to visit a museum gallery. We look forward to seeing you at the Clark in the future.