

Active Viewing Strategies

Whether you're viewing an image or watching a TV show, the news, or a movie, you need to be an active viewer. Becoming an active viewer will open your mind to new ideas and allow you to make sense of the images and events in your world.

HERE'S HOW

Strategy 1: Monitor your reactions. As you view, pause occasionally to check your understanding of the work. Ask yourself:

- What is happening and why?
- How well do I understand what I am seeing? Clarify your understanding by taking another look or by summarizing what is happening.

Strategy 2: Make connections. Regardless of what you are viewing, it is important to make connections between the work and your life and experiences. Making connections will help you personally relate to what you are viewing. Ask yourself:

- Who or what does this remind me of? Have I encountered people or situations like this?
- How would I react or feel if I were in this situation?

Strategy 3: Make predictions. Predicting—or guessing—what might happen next will help you understand and appreciate the work you are viewing. As you continue your viewing, consider your predictions and how accurate they were. Ask yourself:

- What details do I notice about the characters or people and setting? Are these details important? How do these details help me understand the work?
- Based on these details, what do I think might happen next?

Strategy 4: Make inferences. Make logical guesses about what you are seeing, using evidence from the work and what you know from your own experience. Ask yourself:

- What do I know about the characters or people, events, and setting in the work? Record details that you observe.
- How can those details, common sense, and my own experiences help me “read between the lines”?

Strategy 5: Compare and contrast the work with other works. Comparing and contrasting two or more works often brings new insights and deepens your understanding. Consider how other images, movies, or works of art have depicted similar subjects or situations. Ask yourself:

- How do similar media messages compare with this one?
- How is this movie, image, show, or work of art different from others like it?

LESSON

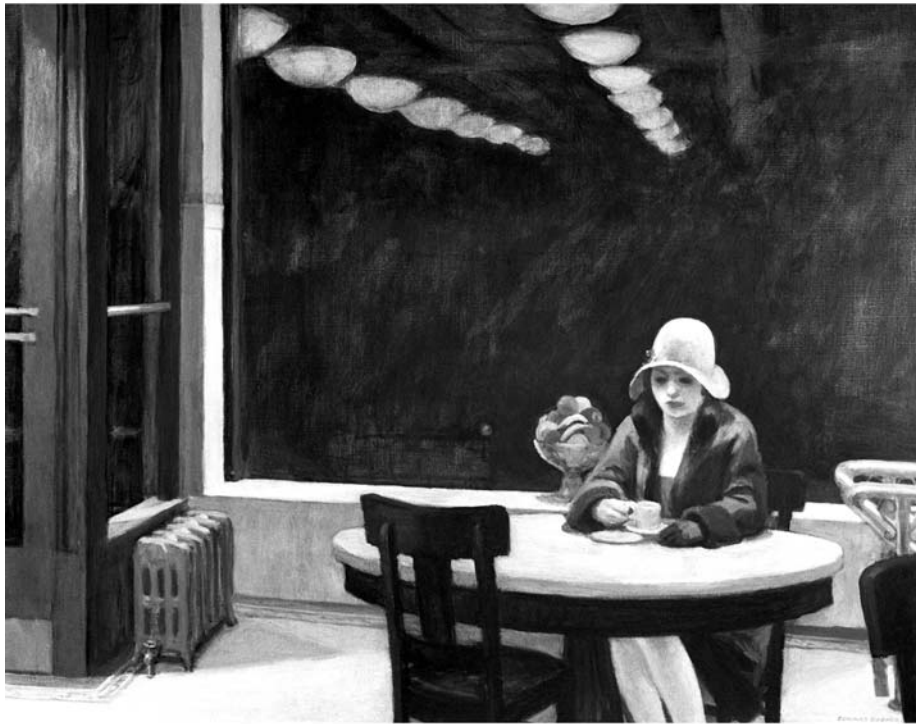
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PRACTICE WORKSHEET

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COPYMASTER

Directions: Carefully study the painting, and then use the strategies to answer the following questions.



Automat (1927), Edward Hopper. © Francis G. Mayer/Corbis

Automat, Edward Hopper

1. **Monitor:** Summarize what is happening in this image. Think about who the woman is and what she is doing. _____

2. **Make Inferences:** Do you think this scene takes place in the present day? _____

3. **Make Inferences:** How would you describe the woman's emotional state? What details in the painting help you understand what the woman might be feeling? _____

4. **Compare and Contrast:** This painting's mood might be described as one of alienation and isolation. What other paintings, photographs, movies, or TV shows have you seen that convey this same mood? Write on the back of this sheet.