LOOKING PROMPTS

Using the name of the sculpture, *Gorilla*, create an acrostic poem about this artwork as you look at it. An acrostic poem uses each letter of a word as the beginning for a line in the poem. For example, here is an acrostic poem using the word cat:

Careful
Agile
Timid

What word would you use to describe the pose of this gorilla? What are some other possible poses the artist could have chosen? Create these poses with your body if you are comfortable. Or draw them.

Why do you imagine the artist might have chosen to carve the gorilla in this pose?

Houston Chandler carved *Gorilla* out of wood. Imagine if this gorilla were made from a different material.

What would happen if it were made from stone? How about if it were made from metal? Or if it were made from fabric and stuffed like a stuffed animal?

What material would you use if you were to make your own gorilla?

**Drawing extension:**

Imagine if you could create an environment or background for *Gorilla*.

Draw a picture of your background. Why did you choose the background you did?
LOOKING PROMPTS

What is a feeling that comes to you as you look at this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that?

Write a list of adjectives to describe what you see in this work of art.
Imagine the space where this person in this drawing may be sitting.
Consider what they may be seeing or hearing.

Draft a story from the point of view of the figure. What’s the setting?
What happened just before this moment? Predict what might happen next in this story.
Assign a title to your story and add characters if necessary.
LOOKING PROMPTS

Explore the shapes of this painting. On a paper, draw different shapes that you find in the painting.

Notice simple shapes.

Notice complex shapes.

What happens when you combine shapes?

Explore positive space by finding the objects that appear in the front or feel the most dominant in the composition.

Explore negative space, what shapes appear to be in the background, or are created in the space around those in the front?

Take the shapes that you have found and drawn on your paper. Cut them out. Trace them to create more of these shapes and then cut out these additional shapes. Arrange them in different patterns to create your own designs inspired by this painting. Add color to your image if you would like.

Claps, pats, foot taps, and other sounds can be created with our bodies and can be organized in a way that creates music. Look at this painting for 30 seconds. Then translate the rhythms and patterns of the artist's design into your own sounds.

What shapes inspired your choices?
LOOKING PROMPTS

What do you notice about the colors in this painting?
How do you imagine the painting would feel to you if the artist used warm colors, such as reds and yellows?
What do you imagine the painting would feel like if the artist used only black and white?
If the painting were hung upside down, how would your observations change?

What associations come to mind when you look at this painting?
What sounds do you imagine this painting would make?
What movements might you see if this painting were to come to life?
If only one element had the ability to move in this painting, what part would move? Why?
LOOKING PROMPTS

When looking at these two sculptures, what do you notice first?

If you could create a home for these two birds, where would it be and why?

If you were able to observe the birds in the same location, would they interact with one another or remain separate? Describe their movements within the location you have imagined. What can you find in the artwork to support your answers?

If you could spend a day with one of these birds, what might you learn? Imagine it was able to fly. Where would it travel? Draw a map of its travels.

What clues can you discover to possibly help identify what type of bird this might be? Compare the clues you discovered with images and information about birds that you can research in resources such as books or websites.

How do these artistic representations of birds compare to the characteristics of real birds that you discovered in your research?
LOOKING PROMPTS

Use Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to explore this painting
What’s going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that?
What more can you find?

Additional Prompts:

What aspects of the painting help us understand its mood?

As a class, build a list of things that you find in this image, such as colors, shapes, and imagery. Using the list created collaboratively as a class, build a narrative (individually or as a group) inspired by the elements discovered from the painting.
Fred E. Myers, American, 1910–1950; Lincoln, 1929; wood (railroad tie); 26 1/2 x 10 1/4 x 9 inches; University Museum, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2021.39

LOOKING PROMPTS

What might the pose suggest about the figure’s mood?

What might be the figure’s next movement?

What visual clues help identify this well-known figure in U.S. history?

Imagine the figure begins to speak. What might his first words be?

What would you want to ask him? Write a list of questions.

Imagine how he might respond. What in the work of art gives you clues to how he might respond?

With a partner or small group, act out or write the conversation.