

Seeing Lesson 4: Describing drawing

Main Objective: To develop the students ability to orally interpret images.

What you will need: Photographs of interesting things in envelopes, pencil and paper.

Exercise: Students should divide into pairs for this exercise. One partner is to have a pencil and paper; the other should have the photograph. The person drawing should not be allowed to see the photo.

The person with the photograph is to now describe it in detail so that the other person can draw it. They are not allowed to show them the photograph.

Obviously the communication between the two people is important here. This is a great language and literacy exercise. You can use any image and this can be a great way of introducing famous paintings to students so that they study it in detail.

When the students have completed the exercise they are then to reveal the image and the drawing to each other and discuss the outcomes. Try to identify how they could have improved communication to get a better result.

The students can now swop partners and repeat the exercise with a different image.

Look For's: What you are looking for here is not the drawing outcome, but rather the quality of the verbal instruction. If the students can develop their ability to describe artwork then they will be able to better 'see', appreciate and understand it.

Assessment: The teacher should be trying to collect words and phrases that they hear the students using. They might write these down and place them next to the students drawings. A class discussion helps to highlight some of these words and phrases. What words did the students who were drawing find most helpful? What was the most unhelpful?