

The Dugout

by Norman Rockwell

Print Facts

- Medium: Watercolor on Paper
- Date: 1948
- Size: 19 X 17.75"
- Location: Brooklyn Museum of Art
- Period:
- Style:
- Genre: American scene
- This painting appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post September 4, 1948.
- This magazine cover now sells to collectors for over one hundred dollars. The magazine originally sold for 10 cents each.

Artist Facts

- Born February 3, 1894 NYC
- Died November 8, 1978 (age 84) Massachusetts
- Rockwell was known as a painter and illustrator who was famous for his scenes of American life.
- He was best known for his magazine covers for The Saturday Evening Post, which he did for four decades. He produced 322 covers for the magazine over 47 years.
- He was also known for his work doing covers for Boy's Life for the Boy Scouts of America.
- At the age of 14 he transferred from high school and went to the Chase Art School.
- He tried to enlist in WWI, but was rejected because he was 8 pounds underweight. He gorged on bananas, liquids, and doughnuts and finally made the weight requirement, but was assigned as a military artist and never saw action.
- Rockwell completed over 4,000 works during his lifetime and illustrated over 40 books including Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer.

Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Line** is a mark on a surface that describes a shape or outline. Lines may be drawn or implied. They may be straight or curvilinear. They can create texture and be made thick or thin. Lines are often used to wrap around objects to make shapes. They can be horizontal, vertical and diagonal. Lines are usually used to take the viewer's eye around and through a composition.

Possible Questions to Teach Line

- What lines do you see in this painting? On the board, show students an example of a vertical line, horizontal line, diagonal line, curvilinear line, thick line, and a thin line. Then have students find at least one of each of those lines in the painting. (Vertical lines in the wood at the back of the dugout, strong horizontal lines at the top and bottom of the dugout, curved lines on the uniforms, the bar they hang stuff on is another horizontal line, the bat is a diagonal line (don't forget the bat's shadow), the outside lines of the edge of the painting are

also lines, the boy and man standing on the right side of the picture create strong vertical lines with their bodies, the man with his hand on his face has lines in his cheek, there are lines in the shirts of the spectators.)

- The lines in this painting help take you around the painting. (Boys face, down his body to his foot, bat diagonally to the edge, to the left and up the side to the horizontal green beam and back to his face.)
- The lines add texture and interest to clothes and faces. (wrinkles)
- Lines tell us how the people are feeling because the eyebrows, mouths, etc show us their emotions. Ask the students to create lines in their forehead like the batboy is by raising one eyebrow. Perhaps have one child come forward to demonstrate.

Keywords

- Line, Texture, Expression, Mood, Primary and Secondary Colors, Portrait

Other Possible Questions and Suggestions

- What colors do you see in this painting? Primary or secondary?
- What do you think the story is in this painting? What is happening? Do you think this team is winning or losing?
- What is the crowd doing in this painting?
- How does the player feel?
- How do the players in the dugout feel? Why do you think this is?
- Would it be noisy or quiet in this scene? What sounds would you hear? (Consider taking in the sounds from a baseball game. A quick search on YouTube for "baseball game sounds" will let the students actually hear what it sounds like to be in a crowd.)
- Which face in the crowd is your favorite? (Have the children imitate the faces in the crowd.)
- What would you be doing if you were in the crowd in this painting?
- What would you do if you were the boy in this painting?
- Have a student come forward and secretly pick a face he is going to act out. Have the class try to guess which "spectator" he is pretending to be. (Doing this three times seemed to work well.)
- Take in baseball props and let a student dress up and try to mimic the batboy or another player.

Questions and Suggestions for additional painting Triple Self-portrait

- Rockwell is painting himself painting himself.
- It is interesting that he painted himself as he wanted to be seen, rather than as he really was. (Younger, no glasses)
- He allows us to "look over his shoulder" to see his artwork.
- Notice the pictures of famous artists hanging on the canvas.
- See an interesting explanation at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfPbGNZYnDM>