Caroline Mc Corriston

scoilnet

Artist as Storyteller

Margaret Allen, *Bad News in Troubled Times*, Oil on Canvas, 38 x 32in (96.5 x 81cm)

- Create a narrative or story around this image. What is going on? What might have happened before the moment depicted? What might happen afterwards? What does the title tell us?

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- Describe the relationship between the two people in this painting.
- Consider the figures' facial expressions as well as the body language.

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- What might the kitten represent?

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- How does the artist show a connection between the figures?

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- Do these people seem happy? Sad? _____
- Have you ever posed for or drawn a family portrait. What expression did you have on your faces?

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- Describe the artists use of paint to capture light and shade, textures, colour.

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- Margaret Allen made decisions about the furniture, background, and objects in this painting.
- If you made an artwork of your family, what would you include? Pets? Objects? What would you put in the background?


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Pádraic Reaney, *Departure*, 1995, Oil on Board, 30 x 21in (76.5 x 53.34cm)

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- For Pádraic Reaney, it seems more important to capture a feeling or mood than to represent the world exactly as it looked. What kind of mood do you think he is expressing here? Brainstorm words to describe the scene and the mood it evokes in you.
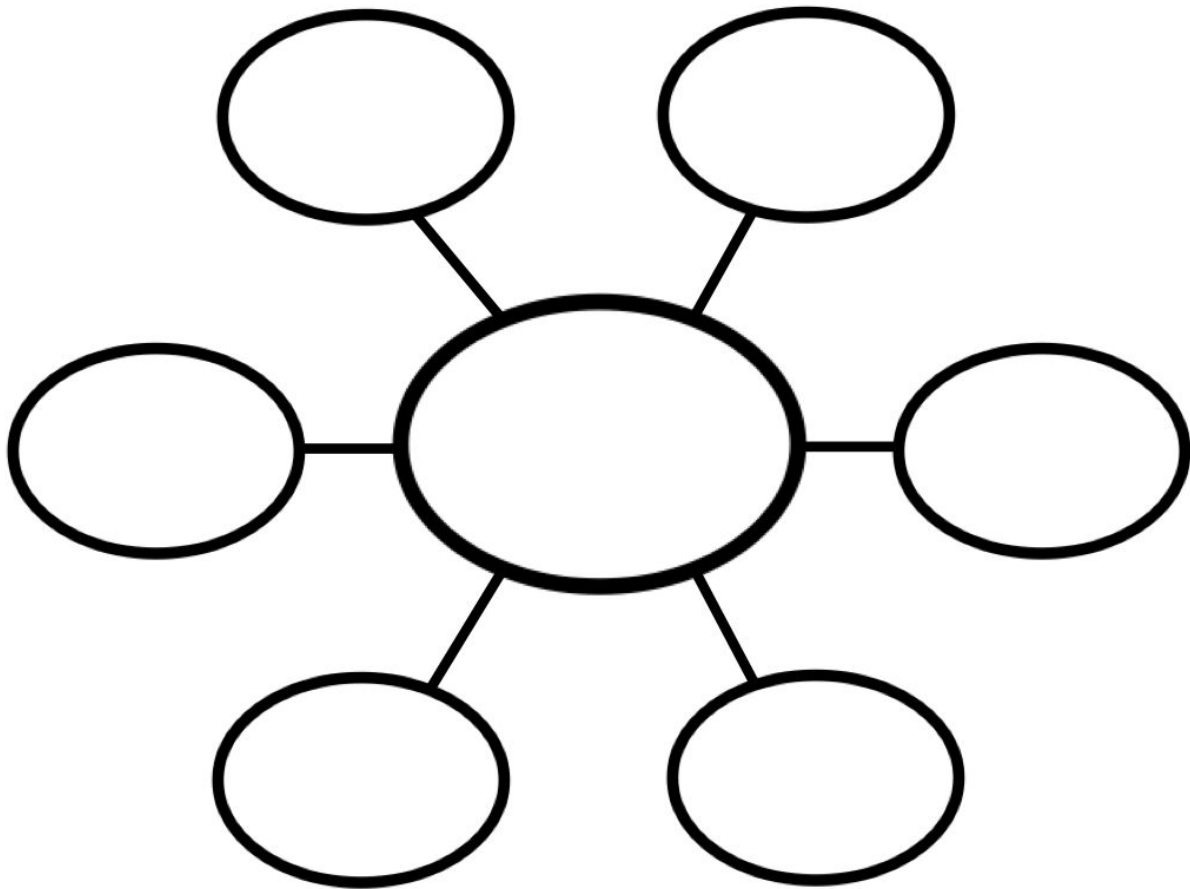
- What kind of colours has Reaney used?

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● Colour in the drawing in the colours you would you use if you had made this piece of art.
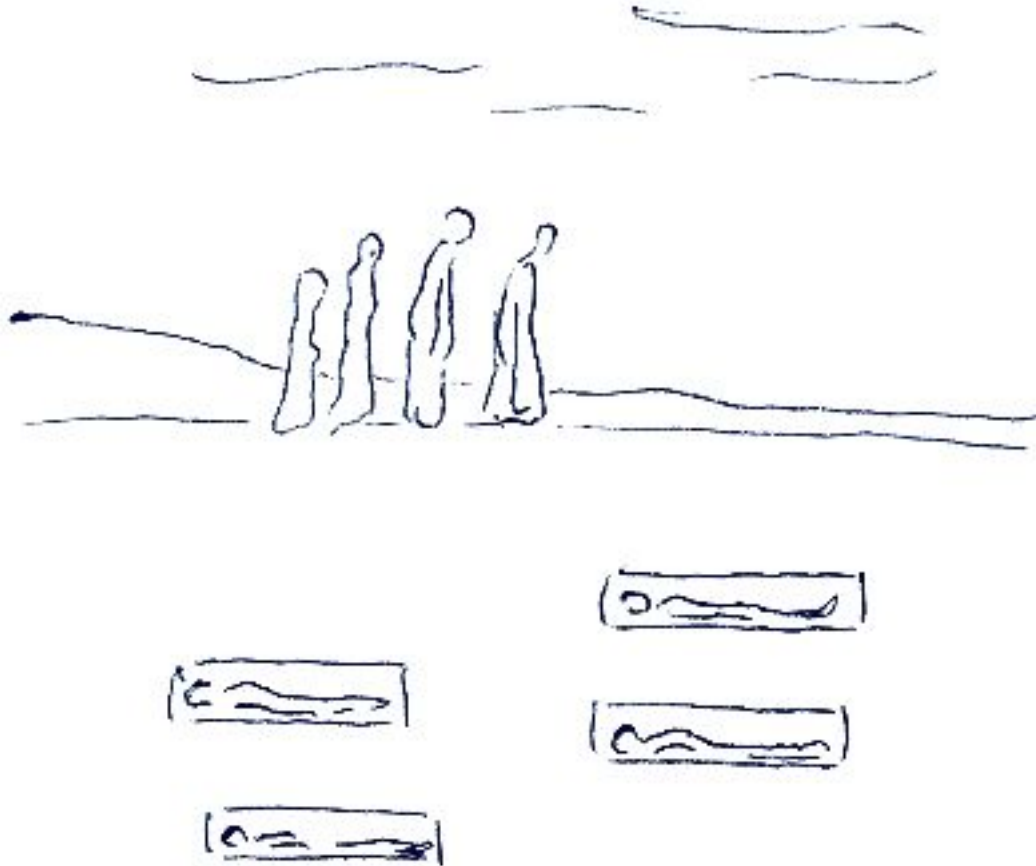
- Has he applied the paint thick or thin? How can you tell?

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- Describe what you think is happening in this painting?

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- Who do you think these figures are?_____

- And who do you think these figures represent? _____

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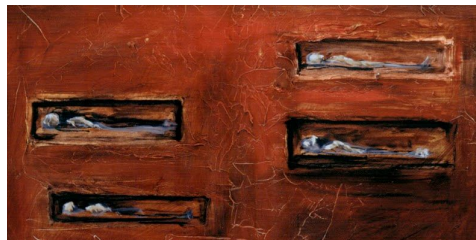
Compare

- Spend some time looking at the figures in these two works. Study the poses and body language of the people. How would you describe the figures? Why?

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- Describe the obvious differences in the people from both paintings. But are there any similarities?

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- Compare the setting and composition of each work. What are the similarities and differences?

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- Consider colour, light, space, perspective, and point of view.

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● Discuss the mood of each work. What details contribute to the mood? If you were to assign a theme to the story implied in each work, which theme would you choose? Why?

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Choose one of the characters in these works and write a story about the scene. Incorporate details of what you see as well as using your imagination to compose your narrative.

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