

# Social & Emotional Learning Through Art

## SERIES OVERVIEW

### *A suite of educational videos and journal activities for independent or synchronous learning*

This series, **recommended for grades 4–7**, features works of art that invite reflection on common human experiences: courage, loneliness, hope, resilience, self-expression, reflection, and concern for others.

Hosted by the Blanton’s director of education, Ray Williams, each lesson is designed to help build **social and emotional competencies** related to: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills. Students will also develop their **visual literacy** and **writing skills** as they consider the various works of art and their connections to life.

## STUDENTS WORKING INDEPENDENTLY

### Step 1 — Watch Video

Ask your students to watch one five-minute video focused on a work of art from the Blanton. Students are invited to look closely and consider what the art has to say about the related theme.

### Step 2 — Complete Journal Activity

Journal prompts accompany each video. Journal pages may be printed out, or the questions and activities may be completed in the student’s own notebook.

Journal pages are numbered and designed to be printed, folded, and combined into a booklet. We recommend assembling the journal pages into a **cartonera**, a homemade personalized book with a decorated cardboard cover.

These videos provide instructions in Spanish and English to make your own cartonera (adult supervision required):

Cómo hacer un libro cartonero: [bit.ly/SELCartonera1](https://bit.ly/SELCartonera1)

How to make a cartonera book: [bit.ly/SELCartonera2](https://bit.ly/SELCartonera2)

Download and print the full set of journal pages at [bit.ly/BlantonSELJournal](https://bit.ly/BlantonSELJournal).



## SYNCHRONOUS CLASS DISCUSSION

Teachers should preview each video and the accompanying journal prompts before presenting for class discussion. The preview will provide an opportunity to anticipate student responses, link ideas to other points in the curriculum, and generate questions for discussion. Below you will find sample questions for each theme that complement the journal prompts; class discussion may be a helpful warm-up for the written assignments.

### Session 1: Trying Something New

- What do you do when you are bored? What new things could you try to do?
- What does it feel like to be a beginner? What are the risks? The pleasures?
- What skill have you been improving over time?

*SEL Competencies: Self-management; Responsible decision-making*



Randolph Rogers, *The Truant*

### Session 2: Strength & Hope

- What are some of your personal strengths?
- How do you use these strengths in challenging situations?
- What other resources might help you deal with hard times?
- Where do you find hope?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness*



Mequitta Ahuja, *Parade*

### Session 3: Caring for Ourselves & Others

- What are some of the causes of loneliness?
- How can you tell when somebody else is lonely?
- What might you *do* to support somebody who is lonely or depressed?
- When you feel lonely, what can you do to cheer yourself up?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness; Social awareness; Relationship skills*



George Segal, *Blue Woman in Black Chair*

## Session 4: Action & Reflection

- Why do you think the artist chose *not* to emphasize David as a victorious hero?
- What might David be thinking about?
- How are fear and courage related?
- What stories do we have about being brave?
- What opportunities do we have to think about somebody else's point of view?
- Can we empathize even with somebody who is not in our group?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness; Relationship skills*



Claude Vignon, *David with the Head of Goliath*

## Session 5: Looking for Joy

- How do you experience time in nature?
- Where do you look for joy?
- What is the connection between gratitude and joy?
- How do you express your gratitude?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness*



Ellsworth Kelly, *High Yellow*



Shara Hughes, *You're Highly Evolved And Beautiful*

## Session 6: Friendship & Trust

- Why is it important to respect another person's confidences?
- How can you tell if someone is trustworthy?
- Who can you lean on in a stressful situation?

*SEL Competencies: Social awareness; Relationship skills*



Yasuo Kuniyoshi, *Waitresses from the Sparhawk*

## Session 7: The Value of Listening

- Why is it important to listen and be open to the possibility that someone else's ideas might influence your own thinking?
- How does compromise work?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness; Relationship skills*



Claude Van Lingen, *1,000 Years from Now: I Am Right and You Are Wrong*

## Session 8: Respect

- How are older people represented in popular culture today? How might our society benefit from the wisdom and experience of elders?
- Students may need guidance on preparing to interview an adult from their family or community. How will they show their interest and respect? How might they steer the conversation towards life stories that have meaning for us today?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness; Relationship skills; Social awareness*



Charles White, *I've Been 'Buked and I've Been Scorned*

## Session 9: Belonging

- What is it like for you to enter a situation in which some aspect of your identity sets you apart from the majority?
- What is the difference between a community that asks its members to "fit in" and one that is truly open to a wide variety of perspectives and experiences?
- How do we work together to build an inclusive community where no one feels like an outsider?

*SEL Competencies: Self-awareness; Relationship skills; Social awareness*



Louis Fratino, *Among women only*

## VISIT US

The Blanton's in-person school group visits aim to inspire curiosity and foster lifelong relationships between students and the art through interactive, inquiry-based explorations of art. To request a group visit for your school, please complete the [K–12 Group Visit Request Form](#).

Questions? See our [website](#) or email [tours@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:tours@blantonmuseum.org).

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Your feedback on these resources will inform future offerings. Please let us know what you think by filling out this brief survey at [bit.ly/BlantonSELSurvey](https://bit.ly/BlantonSELSurvey).

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