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WORKSHEET – PICTURE ANALYSIS EXERCISE

Pictures tell stories. Observe the picture below. There is a bit of information on the painter to help you understand the picture.

Consider the following questions to help you get started:

1. What do you see in this picture?
2. What are the children doing? Where do they live? On what are they sitting?
3. Whom can you see behind the house? What is he doing?
4. What do you think the children were doing before their mother called them? Why?
5. What does the hen expect?
6. What else do you see in the picture?
7. What time of day do you think it is?
8. Why is this picture called “Feeding Her Birds”?

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"Feeding her Birds" by Jean Francois Millet (1818-1875)

Jean François Millet was the son of poor French peasants. His grandmother was a religious woman, and almost the only pictures Millet saw when he was a boy were those in his grandmother's Bible. He copied them many times, drawing them with white chalk on the stone wall. This pleased the grandmother very much, and she encouraged him all she could.

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Questions

1. How do you think the painter happen to paint this picture?

- ☐ The painter thought of a time he was young with his siblings and mother.
- ☐ The painter looked out the window and saw the children and their mother.
- ☐ Someone told him to paint it.
- ☐ The painter always painted children eating.

2. Why did the painter call the picture “Feeding Her Birds”?

- ☐ Children were called birds a long time ago.
- ☐ The three children were sitting in a row on the doorstep the way birds sit in a row on wire.
- ☐ The three children and mother reminded him of the way little birds crowd toward the edge of the nest when the mother bird feeds them.

3. What makes you think the children are hungry?

- ☐ The mother has a bowl full of broth.
- ☐ The mother is using a long wooden spoon to feed them.
- ☐ The children were playing all morning.

4. How do you know it is noon in the poem?

- ☐ The children and mother are outside.
- ☐ The shadows in the picture are short,
- ☐ There are lots of trees in the picture.
- ☐ The wind is still.

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5. What makes you think the children were happy?

- ☐ The children play rough.
- ☐ They were outside playing.
- ☐ They are well dressed.
- ☐ Their mother feeds them outside.

6. Which game did the children most likely play?

- ☐ Hide and Seek
- ☐ Keeping Store
- ☐ Marbles
- ☐ Doctor