

FEELS ART PROMPTS



Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881-1973), ***Mother and Child***, ca. 1901, oil on canvas, 1951.57.

F for FIRST IMPRESSIONS: (2 Minutes)

What stands out to you? If you imagine you are the child, how are you feeling? Can you imagine any smells, sounds, or lighting accompanying the scene?

E for EXAMINE DETAILS: (5 Minutes)

What do you notice about the details of the faces? Are the eyes open or closed? How would you describe the figures' facial expressions? What do you notice about the hands and the feet? Why do you think the mother is barefoot? Why is the mother seated? What is she wearing?

What can you tell about the surroundings? How many different shades of blue do you see?

E for EXPLORE YOUR RESPONSES: Does Picasso's portrait of a mother and child resonate with you? How do you feel observing Picasso's painting? What helps you feel better when you are feel down or blue? Do you like to be hugged? As a child, do you remember being hugged by your parent or another adult?

L for LEARN ABOUT CONTEXT: (10-15 minutes. Feel free to write down your responses or discuss them with others.) Picasso was about 20 years old when he produced a series of works between 1901 and 1904 in a range of blues. The works from this period of his career became known as his "Blue Period." He had recently suffered the death of his sister, and his close friend, Carles Casagemas. Pursuing his career in Paris away from his family in Madrid, he was poor and empathized with those also suffering from poverty.

S for SHARE YOUR FEELINGS: (15 Minutes or more. Feel free to write down or discuss your responses with others.)

In Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-1880), the author writes that only a beautiful childhood memory can save us:

"You must know that there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and good for life in the future than some good memory, especially a memory of childhood, of home. People talk to you a great deal about your education, but some good, sacred memory, preserved from childhood, is perhaps the best education. If a man carries many such memories with him into life, he is safe to the end of his days, and if one has only one good memory left in one's heart, even that may sometimes be the means of saving us."

Excerpt from Illusha's Funeral. The Speech at the Stone, <https://standardebooks.org/ebooks/fyodor-dostoevsky/the-brothers-karamazov-garnett/text/chapter-5-3>.

If you are comfortable and it is positive for you, consider answering the following questions:

What is your earliest childhood memory?

What is your best childhood memory?

Do you agree with Dostoyevsky?

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Please help us to improve the FEELS Art Prompts as we develop new ways for museum visitors to use the collections for exploring their own feelings and cultivating a greater sense of well-being. Please complete and return this page. Feel free to add any additional comments on the back. Thank you for sharing your responses as we continue to refine the FEELS Prompts.

1) Have you ever visited a museum before today? Please circle one: YES NO

How many times per year do you visit a museum?

Number of times: 1-2 3-5 6-10 Your own estimated number of visits:

Please circle a response to the statements below :

2) The FEELS Prompts inspired me to consider Picasso's *Mother and Child* in relation to my own experiences or responses.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Please provide any further thoughts or comments:

3) The FEELS Prompts offered me a way to explore my emotional connection(s) to the work of art.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

4) The FEELS Prompts inspired reflection of my own childhood memories or experiences.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

5) The FEELS Prompts inspired me to engage with other students in the gallery.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

6) The FEELS Prompts inspired a greater sense of self-reflection.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

7) The FEELS Prompts enabled me to recall experiences of interest to me.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

8) The FEELS Prompts created a greater sense of confidence in my responses to Picasso's *Mother and Child*.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

9) The quote from Dostoyevsky enhanced the FEELS Prompts,

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

Further thoughts or comments:

10) I would tell a friend to try the FEELS Prompts when visiting the museum.

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Disagree Strongly

11) What did you find most interesting about the FEELS Prompts? What did you enjoy least?

12) What would have made the FEELS Prompts better? Feel free to use the back of the page.

If you'd like to learn more about the FEELS Art Prompts project, please reach out to:

Elliot Bostwick Davis, Ph.D., at elliott_davis@harvard.edu. Thank you for your time and input!

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