STORIES IN STAINED GLASS

Have you ever seen a stained glass window? These windows are made of pieces of colored glass, held together by metal strips. Sometimes they are pictures of people or things, and other times they are just pretty designs and shapes. Stained glass windows have been used in buildings for hundreds of years. Most of the earliest windows were designed for churches, adding light and color in a time before electricity. The pictures created in colored glass also told stories to the people who saw them. This was especially important in a time when most people couldn’t read or write.

Beginning in the 1800s, however, stained glass windows became popular in the design of homes. Clayton, the 19th-century home of Henry Clay Frick and his family, has many examples of stained glass windows. To the left is a photograph of a window in a door dividing the front hallway of the house from the back hallway used by servants. The window is named The Harvest. Look closely at the design of the window—why do you think it has that name?

COLORING ACTIVITY

Using colored pencils or crayons, color the design on the right to create your own stained glass window! Think about the foods people harvest, or pick and gather, to help you color your window.

If the space contains the name of:
A FRUIT, color it ORANGE.
A VEGETABLE, color it BROWN.
A NUT, color it GREEN.
Anything that does NOT grow from the ground, color it YELLOW.

What do you see when you’re finished? ____________________________

We are Family!

Who are these people?
Look at this painting by Arthur Devis. It shows a big family. It was the family of a man named Sir Joshua Vanneck, who lived in the 1700s. You can see many members of Sir Joshua’s family in this painting. Which one do you think is Sir Joshua? Which ones are his wife, sons, daughters, and grandchildren?

By The Numbers
How many children are there? ____
How many ladies? ____
How many men? ____
Can you count the hats? ____

What kind of painting is this?
Can you name different kinds of paintings? There are still lifes (paintings of things), landscapes (paintings of places), and portraits (paintings of people). This painting has parts of all three kinds—can you find them all? This is also a special kind of portrait called a conversation piece, where the people are shown talking to each other. Who is talking to whom? Imagine what they might be saying. What would you say if you were part of this painting?

Make a family portrait!
In Sir Joshua’s time, a family portrait was a special way for a person to show how important he and his family were. Interview your family and list as many members as you can think of. Then draw or paint your family portrait. Think about who you would include in your portrait, and where you would pose them. Would you set the portrait in your home? Or what about a favorite vacation spot? The Vannecks included certain items (a telescope, a book) in their portrait. Would you include any special items to represent your family?

Who would you include in your portrait? ______________________________________
Where would you set your portrait? ______________________________________
What special items might you include? ______________________________________