

# ART APPRECIATION LESSON

## Mary Cassatt

1. POSED vs. SNAPSHOT.  
(Showed them examples in an art book of "posed" vs. "snapshot" paintings.)
2. What are the SUBJECTS of a painting?  
(Had them guess the subjects in paintings using examples in an art book.)
3. Mary Cassatt (Showed them a couple pictures of Mary Cassatt).
  - a. Impressionist
  - b. Painted: Favorite subject was showing loving moments/bonds between mothers and children.  
(Had them guess Mary Cassatt's favorite subjects by showing them examples in an art book.)
4. *The Child's Bath* (main goal: to excite children about looking AT art).  
(Showed them big print of *The Child's Bath*).
  - a. LOOKING: Have them look closely at the pieces WITHOUT talking.
  - b. FOCAL POINT: The focal point is what first draws your eye, something that stands out.  
What is the first thing that you see? This is the focal point.
  - c. What is this PICTURE ABOUT?  
How does bath time now differ from bath time then?
  - d. What PATTERNS do you see in this painting?
  - e. How does this painting MAKE YOU FEEL?  
Does it look like the mom and the child have a special bond?  
Explain. Hint — The gentle touch, their heads together, etc.
  - f. What other moments are SPECIAL TO US IN OUR FAMILIES?  
Had them give examples. (Bath time, bedtime reading, snuggling, etc.)  
This lead into the "art project" assignment.

If they finished their drawing, they could then color the patterns in the coloring page of *The Child's Bath*.

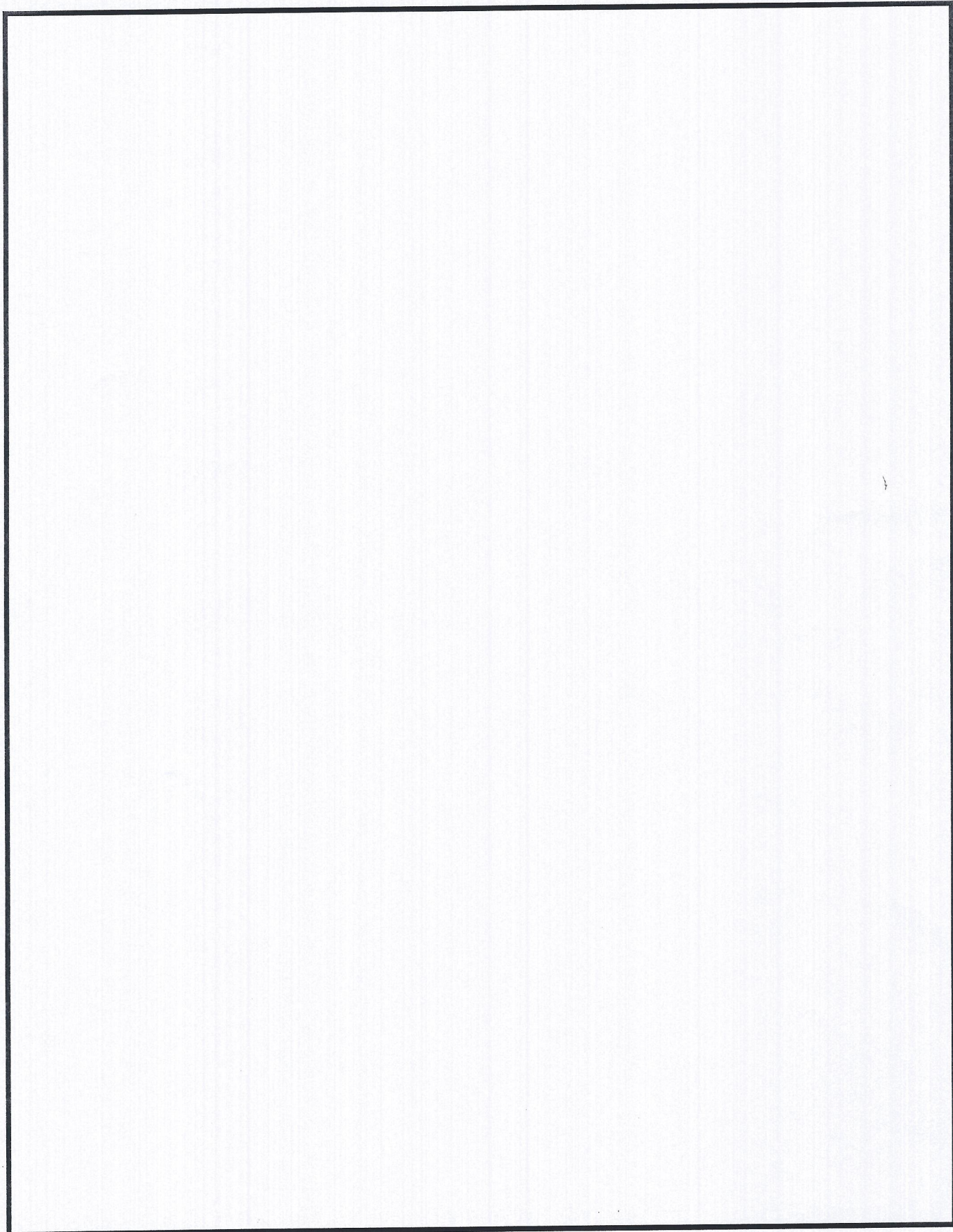


**ART APPRECIATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: "Mommy and Me"

Inspired by Mary Cassatt's *The Child's Bath*







012. Drawn from Cassatt, Mary. *The Child's Bath*. 1893. The Art Institute of Chicago.

© 2009 Hauptman



# ART APPRECIATION

## Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)

The goal of Art Appreciation is to teach kids how to look at art and appreciate art.

Today your child participated in an Art Appreciation lesson about the American Impressionist painter, Mary Cassatt. We discussed one of her most successful works, *The Child's Bath*, which hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago.

We discussed the following subjects:

### 1. Posed vs. "Snapshot" Paintings

Mary Cassatt was considered an impressionist painter because she painted scenes from real life and took an interest in how light played on their surroundings. She liked painting people in everyday activities, and she made these ordinary scenes seem very important.

### 2. A Painting's Subject

Mary Cassatt's favorite subject was showing loving moments between mothers and children. Her paintings make you feel like you're looking in on someone during a special moment.

### 3. Patterns

Mary Cassatt's paintings have many patterns in them. In *The Child's Bath*, patterns can be found in the mother's dress, the rug, and the walls. Less obvious patterns are:

- the mother's caress on the child's foot and the child's caress on her own thigh;
- the mother's and child's hair color, their downcast eyes, their noses, and a line can even be drawn across their eyebrows.
- the mother holding her child steady with her hand and the child holding her mother with her hand.

## CREATING ART

Please find in your child's backpack two items:

### 1. Drawing

We asked your child:

"If Mary Cassatt was alive today, what kind of ordinary scene between a mother and child might she paint? Draw a picture of a close moment between you and your mom."

### 2. Coloring Page

We asked your child to color the patterns they found in the original *The Child's Bath*.

Enjoy! Thank you,

Art Appreciation Volunteers