

Why is the guy in *The Scream* Screaming?

A text from Munch's diary in 1892 relates to **The Scream**:

*I was walking along a path with
two friends the sun was setting
I felt a breath of melancholy
Suddenly the sky turned blood-red
I stopped and leant against the
railing, deathly tired
looking out across flaming clouds
that hung like - blood and a sword
over the deep blue fjord and town
My friends walked on -
I stood there trembling with anxiety
And I felt a great, infinite scream
pass
through nature.*



The Scream by Edvard Munch

Why is this person screaming?

Why is the sky red?

Did you know this is one of the most famous paintings in the world? Did you know that it has been stolen from the Munch Museum in Norway two times? When I lived in Norway it was stolen from the Museum at that time and the theft was caught on camera. The thieves just took it off the wall and loaded it into the back of their car and drove away.

Edvard Munch's (pronounced MoonK) *The Scream* may be one of the most famous paintings known. It's hard to pinpoint just one thing that makes it so great, but part of the reason we love it is because almost every person can identify with the feelings portrayed in this painting. Who hasn't had a surprise math test or overdue bill?

We really do not know why he chooses this scene to paint, but we do know that something catastrophic happened around this same time. We also know that this was painted on street that overlooked an Fjord, a narrow body of water surrounded by mountains. There was a mental hospital in the same area and his sister happened to be a resident at the hospital.

And feelings are just what Expressionist artists like Munch were trying to communicate through their paintings. Expressionist art is all about emotion. Today we are going to have a little fun with expressionism.

Materials:

- Example of Munch's *The Scream* to look at.
- Water Colors
- brushes
- pencil
- 18" X 24" drawing paper

Here's what you do:

1. Look at the painting, *The Scream*. Can you identify with the character in this painting? What is he (or she... we really don't know) feeling? When is the last time you felt like that?
2. Draw the character from *The Scream* on your paper.
3. Draw a scene explaining why the character is screaming. It can be serious or funny -- it's up to you.
4. Use Watercolor to paint your picture, trying to keep the same painterly style used by Munch and the Expressionists. Use streaks of color to fill an area -- no flat color.
5. Use 1 point perspective in your drawing. See teacher for mini demonstration.
6. Your drawing is done when it is completely colored. Expressionists didn't leave a lot of blank area -- even the negative space in *The Scream* is filled up with swirling red and orange clouds!
7. Don't forget to sign your work -- artists always sign their work.



Why is this person screaming?

Resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scream See CNNcvbgn

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uk2o_bwfxo&feature=player_embedded

scream mask prank youtube.com

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oI_6NylZMkc

<http://www.munch.museum.no/content.aspx?id=151>