**Bowl of Goldfish**

*Family Guide*

_Bowl of Goldfish is an Impressionist painting._

**IMPRESSIONISM** is a style that is bright and airy.

Artists often paint pictures of everyday scenes or landscapes paying special attention to the changing effect of light.

They do so by setting up an easel and canvas outdoors and painting in the open air. The French refer to this as painting _en plein air._

**LOOK CLOSELY at the painting**

- What colors are in the painting?
- How do the colors make you feel?
- What kinds of things does this painting show?
- This painting is called _Bowl of Goldfish_. What would you call it?

_Childce Hassam_ lived mostly in and around New York City, but he did leave to study in Europe. As a child growing up near Boston, Massachusetts, Childe was very good at boxing, swimming, and rugby (a fast game similar to football). Before he became a famous artist, he was a children’s book illustrator.

- Have you ever used paint before? Was it thick like gravy, or was it thin like water?
- Using your eyes and words, imagine touching the painting. What would it feel like?

_“The true impressionism is realism. So many people do not observe.”_  
--- _Childe Hassam_
**Activity:** Storytelling

**FACTOID:**
*Bowl of Goldfish* was the first of two very similar works. Childe Hassam also painted *The Goldfish Window*, a similar image of the first version, in 1916. It can be seen at the Currier Gallery of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire.

**MAKE A LIST**
Of words for describing this painting
(Write a word on each line)

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1. **Talk with your group** about what is in the painting. *(Make some notes below to use in your discussion.)*

2. The person with the goldfish in the picture is Helen Burke, the teenage daughter of the artist’s friend. **Tell a story** about her. *(Write in the key points below.)*
Draw a picture illustrating your story about Helen Burke.

To Learn MORE...


2. Search the collection for other American Impressionist paintings, www-bsu-edu/artmuseum.

3. See other Childe Hassam oil paintings at the David Owsley Museum of Art, *Reflection (Kitty Hughes)*, 1917, either on our website or in the Ball Brothers Foundation Gallery.
With thanks to former and current David Owsley Museum of Art staff and advisors who care about making art more meaningful.

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