

## **Meeting The Hathaway Family: Discussion Questions**

Allow students time to respond to the two separate Hathaway Family vignettes (page 2 or project the slide in the PowerPoint) through visual thinking strategies before sharing the background essay.

1. What did we learn from these images?
2. What did we learn from the text?
3. Why do you think it was so important to Robert Hathaway that his children get a good education?
4. What words would you use to describe the Hathaway Family Group in the first vignette and the way they are moving? Are they running or taking a leisurely stroll? What is the mood of this vignette?
5. In the second vignette, what do you think Isaac Hathaway is doing at the creek? What makes you think that?

Show them the whole painting (page 3 or project the slide in the PowerPoint) and ask:

6. When you look at the whole painting, are your eyes drawn to one spot? This is called the *focal point*. Where are your eyes drawn? What draws your eyes to that spot?

- Not everyone sees paintings the same way, and it is perfectly valid if students identify a different focal point.

- Recognize the validity of all responses, but show students the compositional elements that the artist used to draw the eye to the Hathaway Family Group Vignette. One way is through the use of color. Ask students where they see the color of the sky repeated in the painting. Ask them to discuss any contrasts in color that draw their attention.

- Another way of drawing the eye to a focal point is through the intersection of lines. Show students the version of the whole painting with the arrows drawn to show a focal point (page 4 or project the slide in the PowerPoint). To reinforce this concept, give students time to look at other paintings and discuss the elements that create a focal point.





