



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Jesse Steam: Solving Mysteries through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math

Title: *The Hint in the Peeping Pupil*

Series Overview

Ten-year-old Jesse Steam's curiosity about how the world works leads her to one mystery after another as she pedals around town, often with Mr. Stubbs, her tabby cat, keeping her company in the bike basket. Using simple scientific tools and their powers of observation, Jesse and her friends analyze, test hypotheses, and conduct experiments. If the kids get stuck, they know they can count on Professor Peach, a retired college science educator, to step in with a clear explanation.

Each title in the Jesse Steam series focuses on one **STEAM** subject: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math.

About This Book

In *The Hint in the Peeping Pupil*, Jesse receives a tempera painting of hydrangea flowers. But when she washes her cat's muddy pawprint off the painting, she discovers another oil painting underneath. After unearthing the entire hidden painting and doing some research—including a brave visit to the Deanville cemetery—she learns that she's uncovered the only known image of Colonel Pappy Dean, the founding father of Deanville.

This title focuses on **art**.

Next Core Arts Standards Alignments and Activities

The activities and learning ideas in this guide have been correlated with the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**:

<https://bit.ly/2kx58A2>

These standards were developed by the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards. The national core arts standards guide educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.

This book most closely aligns with anchor standards 7–9: perceiving and analyzing artistic work, interpreting intent and meaning in artistic work, and applying criteria to evaluate artistic work.



Lexile: 730 GRL: R 3,492 words



Background and Key Concepts

The Hint in the Peeping Pupil highlights portrait art, or portraiture. Portraiture is one of the oldest art forms. Before photography was invented, a portrait was the only way to record how someone looked. Portraits were painted, sculpted, or drawn.

But portraits are more than just a record. They have long been used to show the personality, power, beauty, wealth, and other characteristics of a person.

Class Discussion

Start the discussion by asking students if they know what a **portrait** is. Explain to them that a portrait is a picture of someone that typically shows only their face. It could be a painting, a drawing, a photograph, or any other artistic representation of a person. A portrait can tell the viewer many things about the person shown—their personality, approximate age, job, etc.

Have students turn to page 46 in the book and examine the portrait. Invite them to raise their hands to share details about the person in the portrait. About how old is the man shown? What is he wearing? What kind of facial expression does he have?

Based on the details discussed, ask students to guess who the person in the portrait may be. A politician? A soldier? A teacher? Make a list of guesses on the board.

Student Activity

Self Portrait

Provide the class with a variety of art supplies—colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, etc. Give each student a large sheet of white paper. Then ask students to create a self-portrait. Remind students to start with pencil before they add color so that they can erase if the need to.

Ask to students to consider the following questions while they work: What do they hope their self-portraits will portray? What do they want others to learn about them by looking at their portrait? For example, if they want people to know they play baseball, they might want to draw themselves wearing a baseball hat. If they want to convey that they are happy, they'll want to draw themselves smiling.

You'll probably need to allow students several days to complete their portraits. When everyone is finished, allow them to present their self-portraits to the class



Research Project

Discover A Portrait

Have students visit <https://npg.si.edu/portraits>. Have them choose one of the portraits shown and write about it. It can be in list or paragraph form, but have them be sure to list all of the important facts about the portrait: who the portrait depicts (AKA the “sitter”), the name of the artist, the date the portrait was completed, etc. Ask students to also write why they chose that portrait.

As a bonus, students can then research the artist to view some of their other famous works.

Additional Online Resources:

<https://www.nga.gov/education/families/an-eye-for-art/examining-portraits.html>

<https://npg.si.edu/learn/classroom-resource/reading-portraiture-guide-educators>

Videos

The Mona Lisa for Kids: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCOI90wO_3o

Frida Kahlo: A Brief History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfbLR15Bh74>