Elementary Discussion Questions for:

*A Beggar Seated on a Bank (Self Portrait), 1630*

Etching on paper

The Heckscher Museum of Art
Bequest of Mrs. John H. Livingston    2001.024.005

You may utilize the following questions and discussion topics to help students describe, analyze, interpret, and conclude about this work of art. They have been developed specifically for elementary grade levels to ensure that the questions relate appropriately to students’ evolving and developing interests, motivation, and skill levels.

What do you see in this work of art?  Have you ever made a work of art of a person before?  What is a self-portrait?  Many believe that this is a self-portrait.  Have you ever created a self-portrait before?

When creating a work of art of a person, artists can show how they are feeling in several ways.  How do you think this person is feeling?  What do you see that makes you say that?  How does his body position, or gesture, help to show his emotions?

Think about the title of this work of art.  What type of environment do you feel that this person is in?  What do you see that makes you say that?

What materials or tools do you think the artist used to create this work of art?  What do you see that makes you say that?  This work of art is a type of print called an etching.  An artist can make many prints of the same image, so that there is not just one original (like with a painting or drawing), but many originals.

The artist used many different types of lines to create this etching.  What types of lines do you see?  How did he change the lines to make certain parts darker than others?  When showing that something is three-dimensional, artists include different values, or shades from light to dark.

Do you think that this self-portrait is finished?  Why or why not?

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This educational material was developed by:
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