Imagery in poetry

How are poems like paintings and photographs? Poems are like paintings; they paint pictures with words. Poems are also like photographs, since they often try to capture a moment of time and freeze it for the future. Paintings and photographs are excellent sources of ideas for poems because they suggest characters, settings, plots, themes, and images.

Choose a picture or painting and write a poem based on the picture. You will need to find a picture and copy it to a word document; like the example on the next page. Write your poem below the image.

* + You can visit the following website for Canadian paintings and pictures.

<https://www.gallery.ca/collection/search-the-collection>

The poem may be in any form you choose. Ideas for getting started:

* Make up a “like what” list about something in the picture.
* Brainstorm a strong verbs list for the action taking place in the picture.
* Imagine yourself in the picture and use your senses to describe the sounds, smells, and textures of the scene.
* If there are people in the picture think about what they might be thinking, or what they might be saying to one another.

Please take a look at the example on the next page. Remember, I didn’t write it!

[](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6a/Mona_Lisa.jpg)

**On Mona’s Smile**

**I know what brought**

**that expression to her face.**

**During one of her sittings**

**Leo said to her, “You know, Mona,**

**you’re very intelligent**

**for a woman.”**

By Winana Baker