Group worksheet

You will have 15 minutes to explore a painting, discuss your answers to the questions below, and prepare to share your discoveries with the full class.

As a group, spend 3-5 minutes looking together at the painting you’ve been asked to consider.

As a group, discuss the following questions and frame answers to them.

In your answers, emphasize visual evidence and use description to present the visual “facts” separately from your “reading” of their possible meanings.

1. Human figures—describe the poses, expressions, actions, and dress. What do you notice? What seems significant for defining the identities of the figures? Is there work being done, or is the figure shown at a moment of leisure?

2. Setting—describe the spaces and environments that the figures occupy. What do you notice about the objects, furnishings, and belongings surrounding the main figure(s)? What do the objects in the space contribute to your impression of the human subjects and their place(s) in the world?

3. Based on your observations in questions 1 & 2, please speculate about the relationship of the figures to questions of labor/work and socio-economic class.

4. Identify something that intrigues or perplexes you, a question that you’d suggest for further research or discussion.

5. Visual form and the artist’s handling of his materials. Which formal element of the painting seems most striking or effective as a means of visual communication?
   - Composition—organization and framing. What is the relation of shapes to the frame that contains them?
   - Color and line (I’ll say more here....)
   - Brushwork (I’ll say more here...)