

**Masterpiece of the Month**  
**Norman Rockwell**  
**Thanksgiving and Freedom From Want**

**60 minute Lesson Plan**

**Objective:** As a result of this lesson, students will learn *how* Norman Rockwell painted and *why* he is an important painter/ illustrator in American Art. In addition, they will design and draw (in full color) their own mock cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

**Recommended Materials:**

- Rockwell's two prints,: Thanksgiving and Freedom from Want
- student photographs from home that depict family and/or celebrations
- Video: Norman Rockwell: An America Portrait video – available at the Glenview Public Library
- Books: *Norman Rockwell's Americana* (ABC) by G. Mendoza and *Norman Rockwell: The Life of An Artist* by J. Roy – both available at Glenview Public Library
- *The Saturday Evening Post* cover template

For additional information, please check out

[http://www.normanrockwellmuseum.org/pdfs/teacher\\_resource.pdf](http://www.normanrockwellmuseum.org/pdfs/teacher_resource.pdf) .

- I Introduce Norman Rockwell (5 minutes)
- II. Show first 2 minutes of video to introduce students to Norman Rockwell
- III. Read page 4 in *Life of An Artist* book. (1 minute)
- IV. Read *ABC* book. (10 minutes)
- IV. Introduce Freedom From Want. (10 minutes)
  - a. Have children observe the art using principles in art
    - *Is this painting realistic?*
    - *What materials did Norman Rockwell use to create this picture?*
    - *What kind of colors do you see?*
    - *How does this picture make you feel?*

- *What shapes are used throughout this piece?*

b. ask leading questions to inspire dialogue and deeper observation:

- *What's going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that?*
- *What more can you find?*
- *Why do you suppose Rockwell left one seat empty at the dining table?*

c. Introduce Thanksgiving print. (10 minutes)

- Ask: *What's going on in this picture?*
- *What words can you use to describe this piece?*

d. Read pages 16-top of page 19 in *Life of an Artist* book. (5 minutes)

e. Introduce activity. (15 minutes)

- Students will use the photo of celebrations that they brought from home to design their Post covers. Alternative: Students can draw something they are thankful for.
- The key is to provide detail and draw what they see. In addition, students will name and date their covers.

f. Ask for volunteers to present their work to their peers. (5 minutes)

V. Wrap up exercise

- a. Who Can Tell Me the name of the artist?
- b. Who can tell me that name of the masterpieces?
- c. Who can tell me one nifty fact about the artist or the masterpiece?