

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will gain a deeper understanding of Rococo art, particularly focusing on the works of Aeneas and Poussin. They will explore themes of love and mythology through the lens of watercolour painting and ekphrasis, while also connecting these themes to Vergil's writings.

Materials and Prep

- Watercolour paints
- Watercolour paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Brushes (various sizes)
- Access to Vergil's "Aeneid" (preferably an English translation)
- Images of Rococo art, specifically works by Poussin
- Notebook for jotting down thoughts and sketches

Before the lesson, review the key themes in Vergil's "Aeneid," especially those related to love and heroism. Familiarize yourself with the Rococo art movement and its characteristics, focusing on the works of Aeneas and Poussin.

Activities

• Art Exploration:

Begin by examining images of Rococo art, particularly those that depict themes of love and mythology. Discuss the characteristics of Rococo art, such as its ornate details and vibrant colors. Then, using watercolours, create a piece inspired by these themes, perhaps illustrating a scene from Vergil's "Aeneid" involving Cupid or a cherub.

• Ekphrasis Writing:

After creating their artwork, the student will write an ekphrastic poem or descriptive paragraph about their painting. Encourage them to use vivid language and sensory details to bring their artwork to life, reflecting on the emotions and themes depicted.

• Discussion of Themes:

Engage in a discussion about the themes of love, heroism, and the divine in both art and literature. How do these themes manifest in the student's artwork as well as in Vergil's writing? This will help them connect the visual and literary arts.

Talking Points

- "Rococo art is known for its exuberance and decorative style, often focusing on themes of love and nature. Can you identify these themes in the works of Poussin?"
- "In Vergil's 'Aeneid,' love plays a crucial role in the hero's journey. How do you think Cupid, as a symbol of love, influences Aeneas's fate?"
- "Ekphrasis allows us to bridge the gap between visual art and literature. How can your artwork reflect the emotions found in Vergil's writing?"
- "Poussin often depicted mythological subjects. What do you think he wanted to convey about human emotions through his art?"
- "As you create your watercolour painting, think about the colors and shapes that express the feelings you want to convey. How does the choice of color affect the mood of your piece?"