

## Horace Mann Elementary School

These dioramas were made by fifth-grade students at Horace Mann Elementary School, a District of Columbia Public School. Phillips Mentor Teacher Paige Byrne developed a series of lessons, which used Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* and its socio-cultural context to create modern-day interpretations of the painting in Washington, D.C.



Working in small groups, students collaborated to produce dioramas of local sites and celebrations, from lunch on the banks of the Potomac to dinner at the White House. To understand the complexity of Renoir's achievement, students were required to include aesthetic elements used by the artist in *Luncheon of the Boating Party*: a still life, landscape, and portraiture/figure study.

Each student team wrote a scenario for their diorama in which they imagined their lives as adults whose travels brought them to Washington, D.C. With this creative approach, Paige, veteran art teacher, found that her students became deeply involved in the project. It encouraged them to collaborate and connect as peers while providing them with an increased sense of their community and the larger world.



Paige received her bachelor's degree in art education PK–12 from East Tennessee State University in 1994. Paige is now in her eighth year at Horace Mann Elementary School. In addition to providing a well-rounded program, Paige seeks opportunities for her students to experience art outside of school. The Discovery Channel, *Washington Post*, the National Airport, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and The Phillips Collection have all provided inspiration and support for her students' artwork.



A painter herself, Paige strongly believes in connecting classroom curriculum to her art room, and was honored to be a presenter at the 2004 National Art Education Association convention in Denver. The presentation described a *Character Education through Art and Literature* program developed with the school's librarian.

Sandra "Sandy" Leibowitz fifth-grade French students brought *Luncheon of the Boating Party* to life by performing a tableau vivant of the painting, first at National Cathedral School and then at The Phillips Collection.