Masterpieces: “The Dugout”, Going and Coming”, and “The Runaway”
Artist: Norman Rockwell

Concept: Illustrating Everyday Life
Lesson: Tell-a-story Illustration

Objectives: A. The students will make an imaginary magazine cover.
B. The students will draw a picture of an event or something happening in real life.

Vocabulary: Realism, Humor, Facial Expressions, Illustrations that tell us a story about ordinary events and people.

Materials:
- White construction paper pre-cut to 8.5 x 11 with a magazine cover title such as “The Basha Bobcat Post” Xeroxed for each student
- colored pencils

** Please Note **
The artist’s biography may be mounted to the back of the 9 x 12 colored construction paper ahead of time.

** Troubleshooting Thoughts **
Make sure the students keep their ideas simple and relative to everyday life.
The students may want to sketch an idea first on scratch paper—time permitting. You can hand out copies of the facial expressions sheet that the students can copy to help guide them in their drawing.

Process:
1. Hand out the prepared 8 x 11 magazine cover sheet and colored pencils.
2. Have them think of a special event that has happened in their life, such as receiving a trophy, having a birthday party, playing in a sport, etc.
3. Encourage the students to tell us a story, using facial expressions and adding simple details that tell us what is going on in their illustration.
4. When the students are finished with their illustration, have them title the magazine cover and sign their artwork.
5. Mount the students’ artwork to the colored 9 x 12 construction paper.
6. Hang in hallway for all to enjoy!
4th GRADE--PROJECT #6

Artist: Norman Rockwell
Masterpiece: “The Dugout”, Going and Coming”, and “The Runaway”
Lesson: Newspaper Cover, Colored Pencils/Paper

Project Samples:
Today Art Masterpiece was presented in your child’s classroom. We discussed the artist Norman Rockwell famous and beloved for his idealized oil paintings of small-town America. We studied various pieces of his art including “The Runaway”, “Going and Coming”, and “The Dugout”. Rockwell’s work appeared on over 300 covers of The Saturday Evening Post and his style became so familiar that the description of life “like in a Normal Rockwell painting” entered the American vernacular. We also discussed the terms realism and humor. Your child used his/her creativity to produce a masterpiece inspired by this artist.
Norman Rockwell was born on February 3, 1894 in New York City. His father was the manager of a large textile firm. They were a wealthy family and often ended dinner by reading Dickens’ novels. As his father read, Norman would draw pictures of the Dickens’ characters. Rockwell inherited his love of art from his grandfather on his mother’s side of the family. He had come to America from England after the Civil War. Rockwell’s mother’s family had 12 children and so his grandfather would walk door to door and draw children, pets and farm animals for extra money. Rockwell’s mother never wanted Norman to pursue art as a career. She never thought he would be able to make a living drawing but Rockwell said he never wanted to do anything else.

Rockwell was a thin, uncoordinated boy who started wearing corrective shoes when he was 10 and glasses when he was 12. Because he was not able to compete in sports, he turned to drawing. He said, “I drew and drew and drew.” As a sophomore in high school he quit school to attend the National Academy of Design in New York City. His art teacher told him he needed to “live in the picture”. From him he learned how crucial facial expressions are in an illustration. At 16 he had his first paid work to design four Christmas cards. When he was 17 he illustrated his first book. He became the art director for “Boys Life” magazine at 19. He salary was $50/month. Later in his life Rockwell donated many pieces of art to the Boys Scouts, and they currently have the largest collection of his work.

When Rockwell was 22, he quit his job at Boys Life to start drawing the covers for the Saturday Evening Post magazine. During this period of time, Rockwell became very famous for his illustrations. Photography was not common and Rockwell had to draw people for the the covers of magazines where as today we see photographs. He would pay kids a nickel to sit for hours while he would draw them. He used many of the same models over and over again in different pictures. He would visualize a person in his mind for a picture and then he would travel to different schools looking for the right person to model for him.
Fun facts about Norman Rockwell

- Runs in the family. Norman's grandfather was an English artist, Thomas Hill, who specialized in very detailed animal drawings. Norman's father liked to copy illustrations from magazines, and would pull up a chair for Norman to do it with him.

- Silver lining. As a boy, Norman was very thin and awkward. His pigeon-toed feet caused him to wear corrective shoes at the age of ten, and glasses at twelve -- giving him the nickname "Moony". Poor at sports, he found he could entertain his friends through his art.

- Early work. When he was just five years old, other boys played with store-bought ships to have naval battles. Since he couldn't afford them, Norman cut some of his own out of cardboard and painted them. They became so popular, other boys asked him to make some for them!

- What a start! He had his first paying assignment by the time he was sixteen. By the age of nineteen he was the art director for Boys' Life magazine. His first cover of Saturday Evening Post appeared in 1916, when he was just twenty-two. He got the job with the help of his roommate who was already doing cartoons for the magazine.

- Eating his way in. When he was turned down for the Navy because he was too skinny, he stuffed himself with bananas, warm water and doughnuts and went back. He was accepted, but when they found out who he was, they allowed him to continue to paint for his regular clients while doing his service in the Navy.

- A new tool. In his earlier work, Rockwell worked from live models. When he began to use a camera to snap pictures of the models, he began to work in wilder, more exaggerated poses -- ones that would have been hard for a live model to hold for hours.

- Tom and Huck. Before he illustrated Mark Twain's classic books, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, Rockwell went to Twain's boyhood town of Hannibal, Missouri. Rockwell walked the streets and country lanes. He even was able to interview townspeople who lived during Mark Twain's lifetime. Such research helped to make his illustrations capture the sense of mythical boyhood in the books. What a perfect combination: Twain and Rockwell.

- Out of the flames. Disaster struck in 1943: his studio was destroyed by a fire. He lost not only the paintings he had made, but all his props. But he didn't let this stop his creative growth. In some ways, it kept him from relying on his past successes. It was about this time that he turned from the more historical illustrations and started to paint everyday life scenes.

- Rockwell's mastery of composition inspires me. He arranges his paintings wonderfully. For example, in the painting above from Tom Sawyer, note how well he frames Tom with the bending figure around him. Adding to the woman the dark upper part of the painting and even the poised cat, Rockwell makes the whole painting
Another of his strengths was expression. Some of his paintings have strong, almost exaggerated poses. But others have gentler moods. Rockwell was a master at catching a moment of emotion, whether it played on the surface of a face or lay hidden behind a subtle gesture.
Norman Rockwell – Drawing ideas

Norman Rockwell’s illustrations show humor, irony, tenderness, kindness, love, and special moments in life. They show life as Norman believed it should be. Think back on your own life. What memories tug at your heart? What could you draw that would also speak to others? Place lots of detail in your illustration. Think about items that help tell your story. Here are a few suggestions:

**Birthday**
- Blowing out candles
- Opening gifts
- Welcoming people at the door
- Pin the tail on the donkey (or other games)
- Eating cake
- Among balloons

**Beach**
- Under a big colorful umbrella
- Building a sand castle
- First entering the cold water
- With inflatable toy/raft
- Helping little brother/sister into the water
- Too much sun (sunburn)
- Over-prepared (wearing all beach gear)

**Camping**
- By the fire, roasting marshmallows
- In tent w/flashlight telling ghost stories
- Pitching a tent
- Untangling fishing line
- Baiting a hook
- Trying to start a campfire

**Holidays**
- Picking out a Christmas tree
- Emptying out piggybank at register to buy a special gift
- Quirky relatives as they gather at your house
- Untangling Christmas lights
- Hanging lights on tree or house
- Preparing a meal
- Looking for Easter eggs
- Fourth-of-July parade
- Watching fireworks
- Exchanging Valentines
- In Halloween costume(s)
- Trick-or-treating at someone’s door
- After eating too much candy
- Giving thanks over a meal
Father's day/Mother's day
Seder/Passover/other religious traditions
Kid talking to Santa
Sitting in church in fancy clothes

Pets
Tossing a ball with your dog
Tug-of-war with your dog
Cat rubbing against you as you pet it
New litter of puppies/kittens
Flying a kite in a field, dog chasing behind
Two people walking their dogs - show
  Resemblance to owners

Patriotic
Return home from war
Old veteran with new veteran
Raising the flag
Saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Sporting Events
Baseball game (in the stands or on the field)
Football game: cheering, huddle, yelling at ref

Misc.
At the grocery store, choosing just the right
cantaloupe
At the park with grandparent(s)
On a picnic
In a tree house
Visiting a farm
Meeting farm animal for the first time
Riding a horse
Trying to B-B-Q
Trying to frost a cake
Milking a cow, cat nearby
Visiting the doctor
Watering your garden
Giving flowers to mom/grandma
Baking cookies with grandma/mom
Wedding day
Little girl(s) playing dress-up
Bringing home new baby (show older child
or pet's reaction