

## Using Art to Explore the Implicit Personality Theory

Study each painting. Look particularly at the person in each work of art. Then answer the questions that follow.



Fig. 35.1.

1. a. Describe some of the personality traits and/or moods of the girl in this painting. Explain why you think she has those traits.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Would your opinion of her change if you knew she had frequent temper tantrums?

Fig. 35.1. Auguste Renoir, *A Girl with A Watering Can*, Chester Dale Collection, ©1997 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

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Fig. 35.2.

2. a. Describe some of the personality traits and/or moods of the young man in this painting. Explain why you think he has those traits.
- b. Would your view of him change if you knew he did not want to be a cadet?

Fig. 35.2. Edgar Degas, *Achille de Gas in the Uniform of a Cadet*, Chester Dale Collection, ©1997 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

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Fig. 35.3.

3. a. Describe some of the personality traits and/or moods of the woman in this painting. Explain why you think she has these traits.

b. Would your opinion change if you found out that she had just lost a loved one?

Fig. 35.3. Edgar Degas, *Mademoiselle Malo*, Chester Dale Collection, ©1997 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington.





Fig. 35.4.

4. a. Describe some of the personality traits and or moods of the woman in this painting. Explain why you think she has those traits.
- b. Would your opinion of her change if you knew she was going blind?

Fig. 35.4. Edgar Degas, *Madam René de Gas*, Chester Dale Collection, ©1997 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

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## Artists' Interpretations

Compare your description of the figures in the paintings with those listed below.

Fig. 35.1.

A *Girl with a Watering Can*, by Auguste Renoir, depicts a young girl who gleams of innocence and warmth.

Fig. 35.2.

Edgar Degas' painting, *Achille de Gas in the Uniform of a Cadet*, portrays a young man of the upper class who is aspiring to be an officer. He appears to be lazy and languid and rather bored with his state in life.

Fig. 35. 3.

This painting, also by Edgar Degas, is entitled *Mademoiselle Malo*. The artist renders the portrait of a woman who is lost in thought, feels alone and despondent.

Fig. 35. 4.

In this painting by Edgar Degas, *Madame René de Gas*, the artist conveys not only the dignity of the woman but also a sense of sad acceptance of her plight in life. Like the artist, Madame René de Gas was losing her vision.