



## Discovering Art — Scott Gallery

### Shape

Grades K – 3

#### INTRODUCTION

Everything around us has shape. Artists use shapes in their work for different purposes: to convey meaning, to provide balance, as the fundamental form of an object for which they later provide more detail, or just as shapes. Shapes can be placed into three categories:

- *Geometric* — like a circle, square, or triangle
- *Naturalistic* — shapes found in nature, like a tree, flower, or person
- *Abstract* — invented shapes unrelated to objects we know and recognize

**DIRECTED LEARNING:**     [\*Breakfast in Bed\*](#), Mary Cassatt

#### MATERIALS

- Felt-covered board
- Felt pieces in basic geometric shapes like circles, squares, and triangles

**USING *Breakfast in Bed*:**

- Introduce the students to *geometric shapes*. Using the felt board, ask the students to name various shapes as you place the felt shapes on the board. As you place the shapes, ask the students to discuss how the shapes are used, i.e., circles for balloons, triangles for sails, and squares for boxes.
- Have the students name some of the geometric shapes they see in *Breakfast in Bed* (circle shapes in the faces of the child and woman, square shape in the nightstand, etc.). Encourage the students to look for the negative space shapes as well, i.e., triangle shape in between the woman's arm and the baby's thigh.
- Have the students name some of the *naturalistic shapes* they see in the painting, i.e., shape of the child, shape of the arms, etc.
- Ask the students to pose like the baby. What is she doing? Have a discussion about her feet and legs: What shape do they make? How would she look if her feet were apart? Why did the artist pose her this way? (Conveying meaning, sense of balance)
- Direct the students to the woman. What is she doing? Have a discussion about her arm placement: What shape do they make? How would she look if her arms were apart or over her head? Why did the artist pose her this way? (Conveying meaning, sense of balance)
- If you were in this painting, who would you be, and what would you be saying?