

Activity Sheet

Runswick Bay

By Mark Senior (1862-1927)

Oil on canvas

1924

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Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your group in front of the painting.

What are your first reactions to the work? What is the painting about?

How has the artist used his paints? Why do you think he painted this way?

Have you ever been to a place like this? What did you do there and how did you feel being there?

Who might live in the cottages?

About the Artist

Mark Senior was a member of the Staithes Group, a colony of artists who painted scenes around Staithes on the North Yorkshire coast. The Staithes Group tried to capture a natural realism by painting *en plein air* (the act of painting outdoors). Senior bought a fisherman's cottage at Runswick Bay near Staithes which enabled him to produce many landscape paintings of the dramatic North Yorkshire coastline.

Suggested extension activities

1. Plein Air Sketching: Invite your group to sketch outdoors like Mark Senior. Using a variety of drawing materials, encourage the group to capture the vitality and movement of the scenes around them.
2. Writing Stories: Using *Runswick Bay* as your starting point for creative writing, invite your group to write short stories on either a) their own experience or memories of visiting a similar place, or b) imagining the lives of the people living in the cottages.