Open Books, Open Minds: Making Meaning from Museum Objects through Story Time

MFA Playdates Program Description:
10:15 am–11:15 am
On the first and third Mondays of each month, families and caregivers bring young children to enjoy story time and looking activities in the galleries which is followed by art making. Each month focuses on a specific theme. This program is recommended for children ages 4 and younger with adults. No registration required. FREE with Museum admission.

MFA Playdates Program Goals:

• Provide a safe space in the museum for young children and caregivers to explore and engage with museum objects using story time as a vehicle for engagement.
• Make connections between literacy and art by identifying a common theme and narrative in the story and the art object.
• Encourage early literacy development - reading of stories, handling of books, engagement with and discussion about an art object, exploration of art materials.

MFA Sample Playdate Program

October Story Time Book List

My Autumn Book by Wong Herbert Yee
Mouse’s First Fall by Lauren Thompson
Apple Farmer Annie by Monica Wellington
I Know It’s Autumn by Eileen Spinelli
Ana Cultiva Manzanas by Monica Wellington
Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin

Objective: Using the season as inspiration, children go on an imaginary journey to autumn orchards and farms.

Art Activity: Children decorate two strips of railroad board, connected like a plus sign. Teachers and adults help to secure the strips with a stapler and yarn to make an autumnal ornament.

Bag Activity: Groups do a movement activity with paper leaves. Children and adults act out being a tree, blowing in the wind, leaves falling, etc.

Engagement Activity: Children and adults look in their gallery for other autumnal images.

Song Suggestion The Leaves Are Falling Down (Sung to “Farmer in the Dell”)
The leaves are falling down
The leaves are falling down
Red, yellow, green, and brown
The leaves are falling down

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