The OPTIC Method of Visual Analysis

**O = Overview:** A general statement of what you see as your first impression. Describe what you see: write one sentence describing anything recognizable and its purpose in the visual. Include information about the category (painting, photograph, poster, advertisement, etc.), the period (era) of the setting, and anything that is occurring.

**P = Parts of the picture:** What specific parts are there in the visual? You should describe each piece. Make a list: list the specific objects in the visual. For each object in the visual fill in the chart as to its color, size, placement (where it is in the visual), attitude (does it seem to add to the tone/attitude in some way?), orientation (where is it in regard to other objects in the piece?).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parts</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**T = Title:** What does the title tell you about the picture? How much does it add to what you understand or do not understand about the picture? If there is no title, why do you think the author chose not to provide a title? What might a good title be? Explain your answers.

**I = Interrelationships:** How do the parts interrelate? How does the title fit into this interrelationship? Analyze the relationships in the picture. How do objects or people or colors relate to each other in the picture? What clues to the message or argument are these relationships giving you? What seems to be the most important “relationship” in the picture?

**C = Conclusion:** What can you conclude about this visual? What does it mean or represent? Draw a conclusion to the meaning or message of the picture based on what you have viewed and discussed as a group. Essentially, what is the argument the artist is trying to convey?