

Name Answer Sheet Date _____

Look and Think

Thomas Eakins, *John Biglin in a Single Scull*, 1873

Observe

1. Draw a purple oval around the scull (boat) that is about to overtake John Biglin's scull (the large rower's boat).
2. Draw a blue oval around the scull with a racing crew of 9.
3. Draw green circles around three sailboats.
4. Write a several word weather report. *Sunny, partly cloudy, light wind or similar description based on the art*

Analyze

5. When Eakins planned a painting, he often divided his paper or canvas into quadrants. On the painting draw a vertical centerline and a centered horizontal line. (The lines will look like a big +.)
6. What is on or near the center vertical line? John Biglin's body
7. What is on or near the center horizontal line? horizon, Biglin's head, distant boats, trees
8. Find triangles in Eakins's composition. The lines in some of these triangles are implied rather than actually drawn. Look for triangles between Biglin's head, boat, and hands. Find other important triangles in this composition. Draw **one** of these triangles with yellow lines. *There are several compositional triangles.*
9. Circle the most important area of the composition in red. Explain how Eakins made this important in the composition. *He centered Biglin and created color contrast with the red head cover against the blue sky and water.*

Infer

10. Describe John Biglin's (the rower's) attitude or emotion. *He seems serious, determined, focused.*
11. Describe John Biglin's clothing. *White sleeveless shirt, dark shorts, red head scarf*
What does Biglin's clothing suggest about him? Does he look rich, poor, or in-between? *His clothes suggest that he is middle class or poor, not a rich dandy. These are casual sports clothes, loose fitting to allow for easy movement and allow his muscles to show. He is not wearing a uniform.*
12. Do you think the rower's body is in good physical condition? yes Explain why you think this. *The powerful muscles in his arms and legs are visible.*
13. Study the oars and the way the rower will dip them into the water in the next few second. Imagine how he will pull the oars towards his body to move the boat forward. Draw an arrow showing which direction the boat will move.

Evaluate

14. Explain what **one** of these people would especially appreciate about this painting: an anatomy teacher, a sports fan, an artist, a physicist, or an historian.

