

## GRANT WOOD Script

Words we will use today

- Landscape-a section or expanse of rural scenery, usually extensive, that can be seen from a single viewpoint. In fine arts the category of subject matter in which natural scenery is represented.
- Texture-the visual and tactile quality of a surface ie. smooth, rough, bumpy
- Perspective-a visible scene, especially one extending to a distance in our case visually on a flat piece of artwork. Things that are closer appear bigger and shrink as they are farther back in the landscape.

### **SLIDE 1. Self-Portrait (1932)**

Grant Wood was 41 when he painted his own portrait. He was born in Iowa in 1891. Though fascinated by all manner of crafts (including jewelry, ironwork, and furniture design), Wood loved painting above all. When he died in 1942, just before his 51st birthday, he owned only two of his own paintings.

### **SLIDE 2. American Gothic (1930)**

This is Wood's most famous painting. Symbolic of the American Midwest it depicts an old fashioned farmer and his daughter. Wood asked his 62 year old dentist to pose and dressed him in the clothes of an old-time Sunday preacher. Wood's sister, Nan, posed wearing a severe plain black dress and apron.

\*Why do you think this painting is so famous? Can you tell what they might be feeling or thinking?

### **SLIDE 3. Stone City, Iowa (1930)**

This was Wood's first major landscape painting. It is a study of a real place in Iowa, but instead of being realistic the landscape is simplistic with soft curving lines, toy-like buildings, and cartoonish trees. Wood said of his landscape paintings, "I had to go to France to appreciate Iowa."

\*Does this look like a real place to you? Why do you think he painted the town this way?

### **SLIDE 4. Midnight Ride of Paul Revere 1931**

This painting illustrates an 1863 poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow showing Paul Revere on horseback riding through a small colonial town square. Again, he did not make a realistic painting, but gave it a dreamlike quality with its high perspective, stylized houses, geometric plants, and dramatic lighting.

### **SLIDE 5. Fall Plowing – 1931**

Perspective is very important in Wood's landscapes. The plow and plants at the bottom (or foreground) of the painting are bigger than the barn and plants at the top (or background) to show how close to the viewer they are. As objects in paintings get farther away, they become smaller.

**SLIDE 6. Young Corn (1931)**

Here is another example of Wood's simple curvy rural landscapes

What textures do you see? Take a look at the perspective. How does he make the trees look farther away? How does he make you feel like you are going down hill in the first field?

**SLIDE 7. Spring in Town – 1941**

Many of Wood's paintings tell stories of small rural towns in the midwest where he grew up. This painting highlights the design on the quilts, houses, gardens, and other everyday things. Wood once said, "All the really good ideas I ever had came to me while I was milking a cow."

**SLIDE 8. Landscapes**

We will making our own landscapes inspired by Wood! Next up the video!