

Oil Painting:  
**“The Banjo Lesson”** (1893) by Henry Ossawa Tanner



Directions: Carefully study the painting. In pairs, with your learning partner, answer and discuss the following questions. Be prepared to share with the whole class.

1. What is the historical context and setting of this painting?
2. What emotions come to your mind as you study this painting?
3. Why is the “banjo” essential to the message the painting conveys?
4. What skills must the boy have to learn how to play the instrument?
5. What skills must the man have to teach the young boy?
6. Can anyone learn how to do something, or must they possess a “natural gift”? (Thoroughly explain your answer and give EXAMPLES.)



