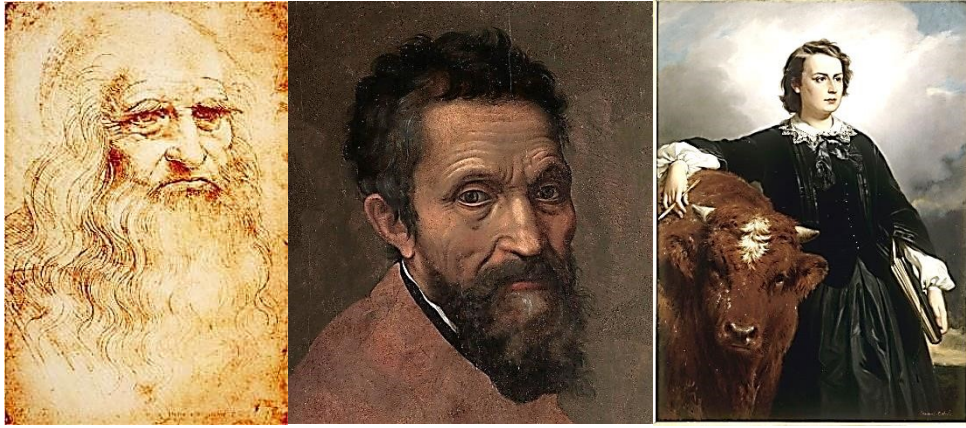


Spotlights



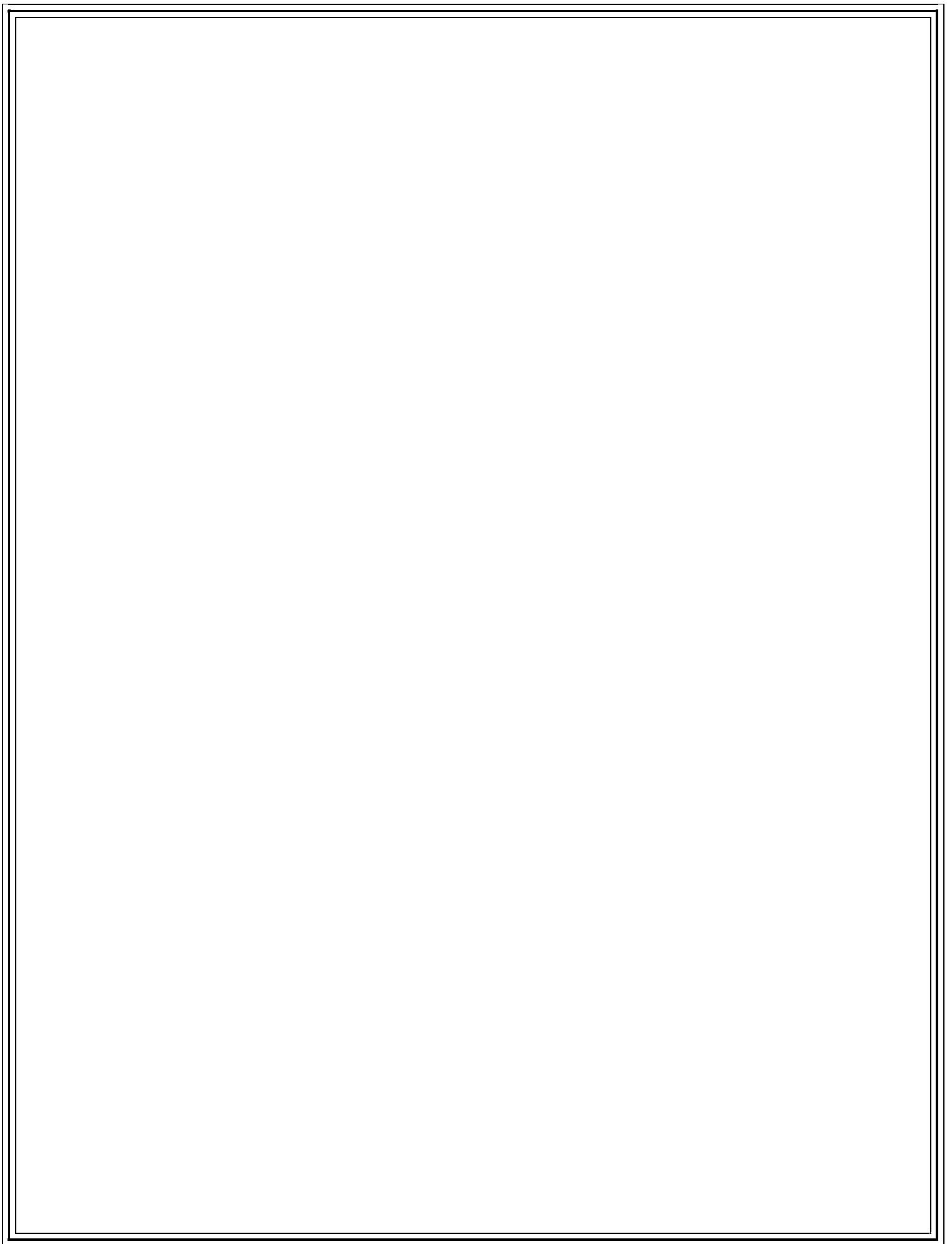
Illuminating Great Artists & Musicians

Michelangelo, Steen, Giotto, Landseer, Bonheur, Leonardo

& More

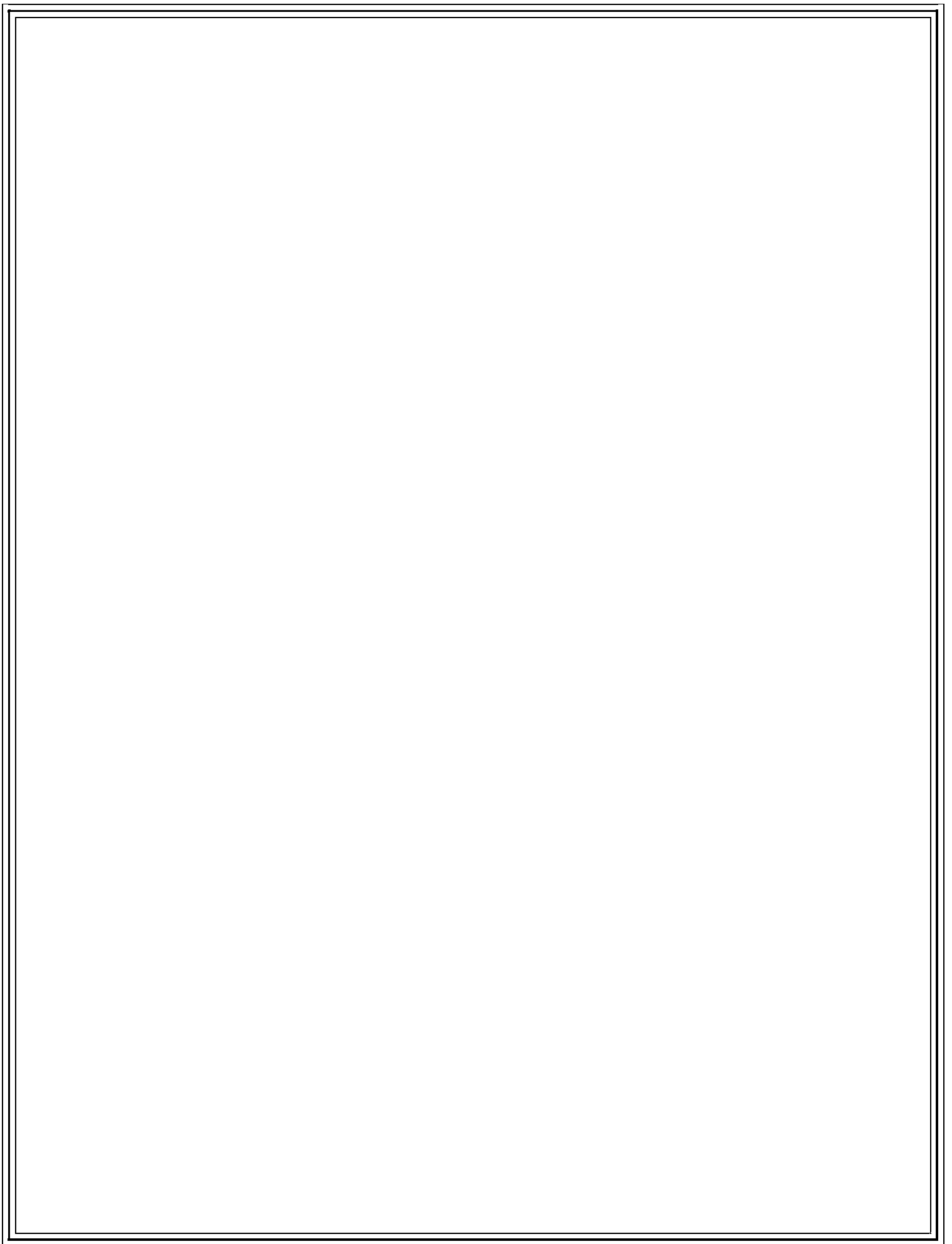
Picture Study

Sample



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Teaching Notes

Artist Background

Marie-Rosalie Bonheur, also known as Rosa Bonheur, (1822-1899) was a painter and sculptor from France. She was trained by her father and was well known for her paintings: *Plowing in Nivernais* and *The Horse Fair*. She is currently recognized as a detailed and accurate painter, particularly of animals, from the 19th century.

Biography

Read more about Rosa Bonheur from the included biography selection. Alternatively, choose one of the suggested children's books about Bonheur from the list of additional resources.

Selections Include:

- *Lion Head*
- *Plowing in Nivernais*
- *The Highland Shepherd*
- *The Horse Fair*
- *Cattle at Rest on a Hillside in the Alps*
- *The Charcoal Burners*

Notes for the Teacher

This PDF file contains pictures which can be downloaded and printed. For best results, print these images on card stock or other high quality paper. You might also consider storing the prints in sheet protectors or laminating them.

Each selected work is given a figure number and with each work teaching notes specific to it correspond. These small boxes of teaching notes can be individually cut out and attached to the back of the photo, if you wish.

Remember, the pictures are meant to be enjoyed! The teaching notes are not meant to dominate the study. Let students be the guide in how much detail you give for each picture. The depth you take should also be determined by the age and level of your students.

Recommended Books

Forms I-II

Rosa's Animals: The Story of Rosa Bonheur and Her Painting Menagerie by Maryann Macdonald

Forms II and III

Rosa Bonheur: Painter of Animals by Olive M. Price

Forms III-VI

Rosa Bonheur by Frank Hird –Internet Archive

Online Resource

“The Restoration of Rosa Bonheur’s The Horse Fair” –The National Gallery, London

How to Complete a Picture Study Lesson

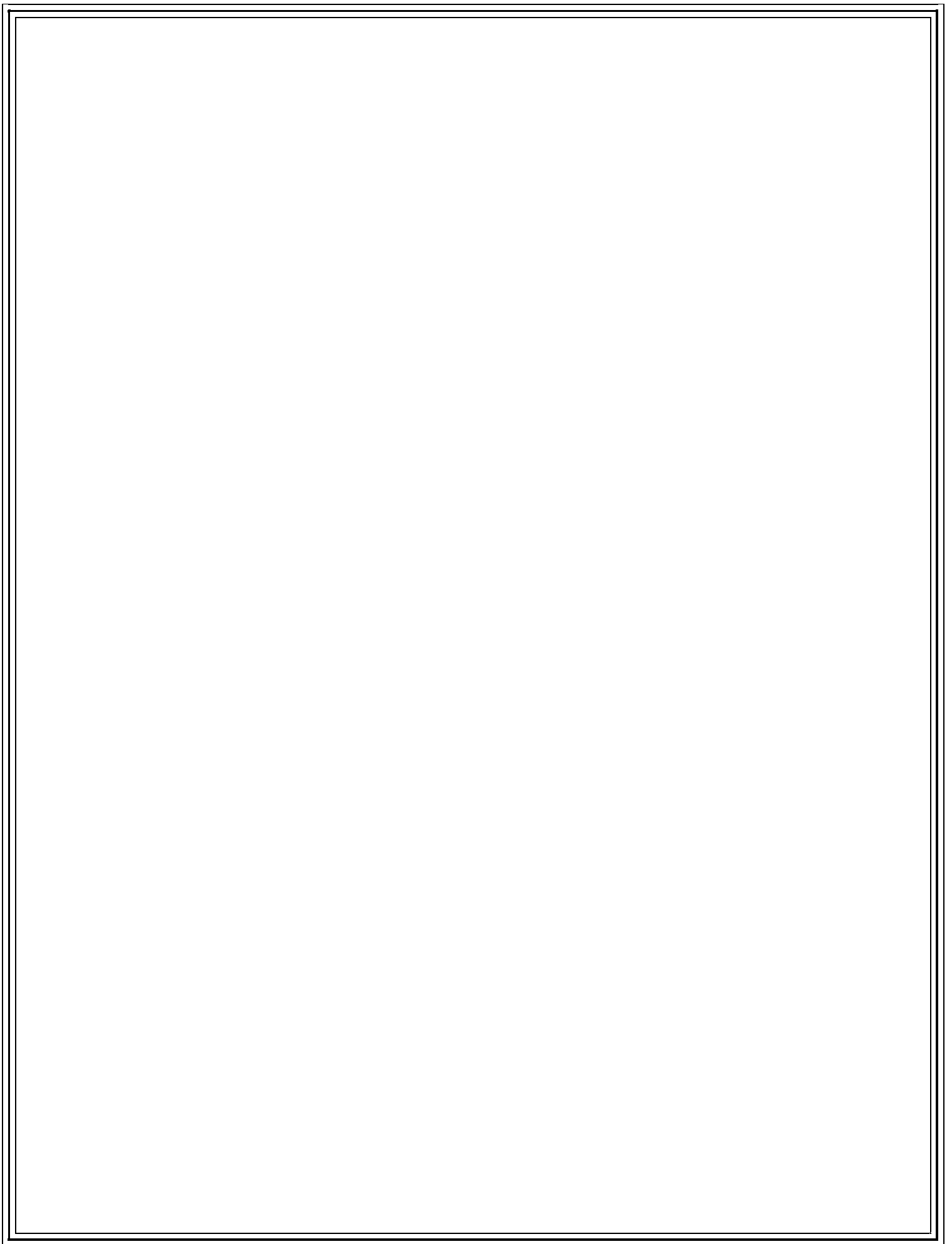
- Have your student spend some time quietly studying the piece.
- After studying the picture, remove or turn the picture over and have your student describe the picture in great detail.
- Now the picture is brought back out or turned back over. The children then discuss what they might have missed in their description narration. It is at after the children have had time to discover for themselves what they might have missed that the teacher might pose a question or two, directing them towards something of which they might not have considered.

For further notes on how to conduct and set up a picture study, see the complete guides or the program guides.

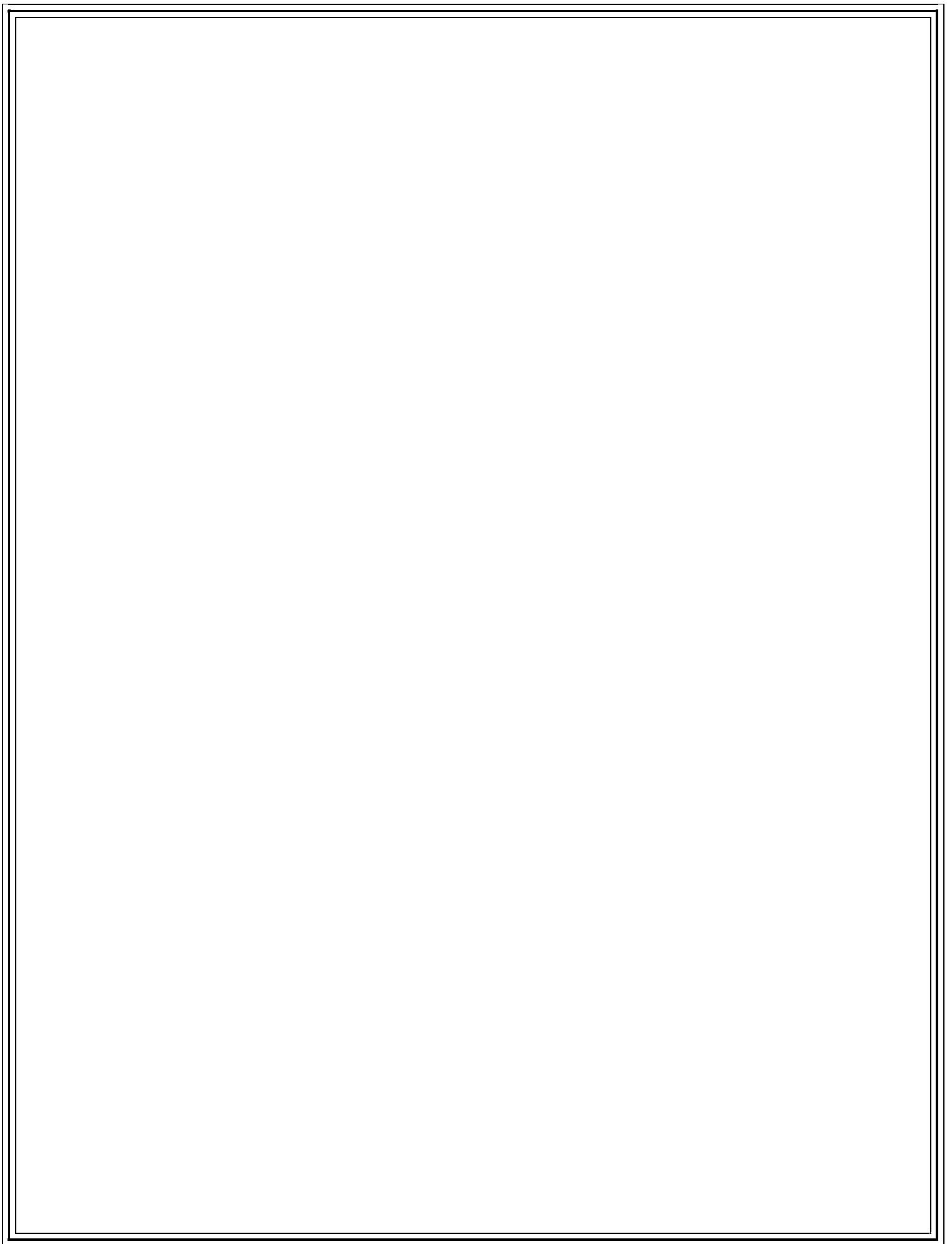
Steen



Self-Portrait by Jan Steen



Biography



Rosa Bonheur

In a simple home in Paris could have been seen, in 1829, Raymond Bonheur and his little family: Rosa, seven years old, August, Isadore, and Juliette. He was a man of fine talent in painting, but obliged to spend his time in giving drawing lessons to support his children. His wife, Sophie, gave lessons on the piano, going from house to house all day long, and sometimes sewing half the night, to earn a little more for the necessities of life.

Hard work and poverty soon bore its usual fruit, and the tired young mother died in 1833. The three oldest children were sent to board with another woman, "La mère Cathérine", in the Champs Elysées, and the youngest was placed with relatives. For two years this good woman cared for the children, sending them to school, though she was greatly troubled because Rosa persisted in playing in the woods of the Bois de Boulogne, gathering her arms full of daisies and marigolds, rather than to be shut up in a schoolroom. "I never spent an hour of fine weather indoors during the whole of the two years," she has often said since those days.

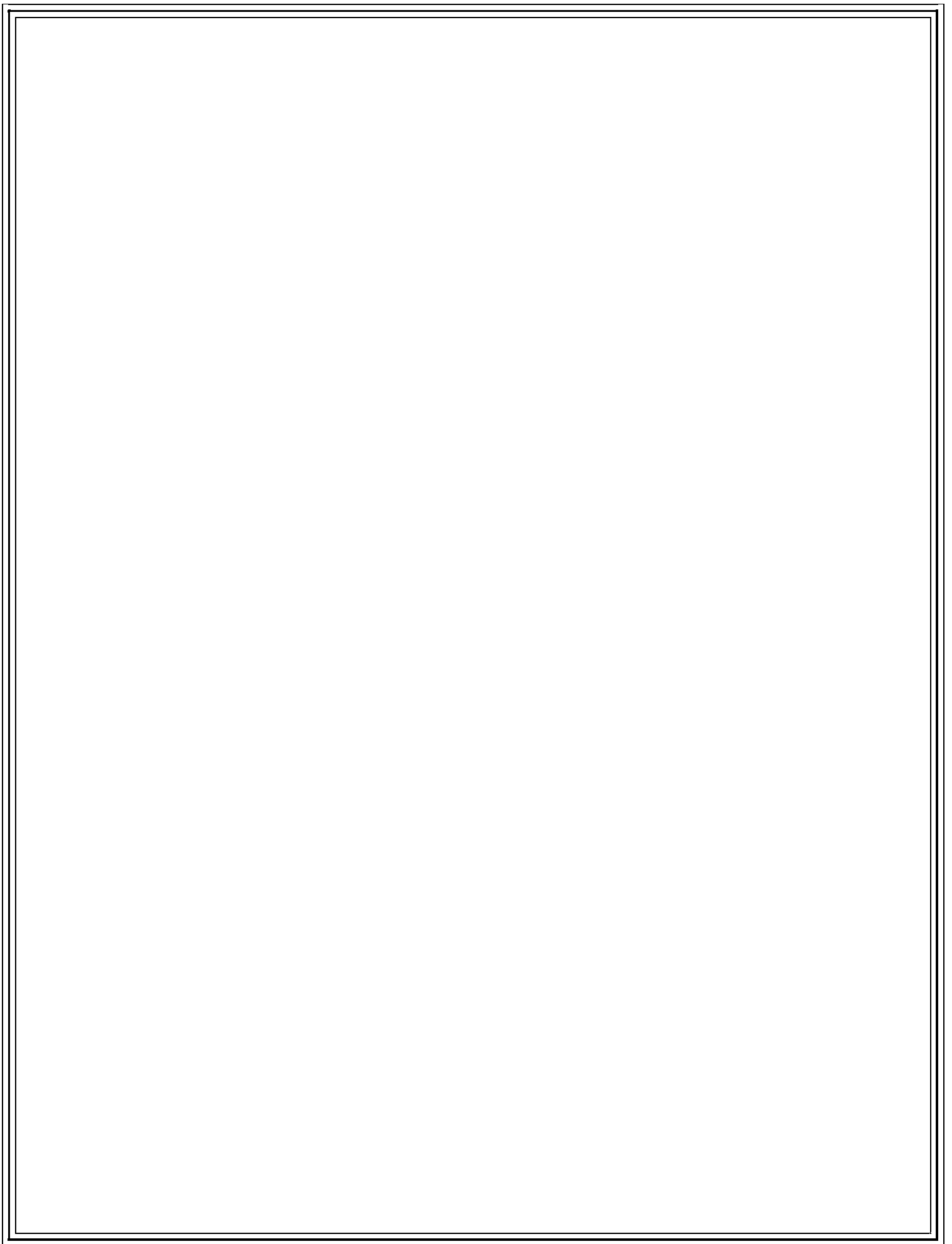
Finally the father married again and brought the children home. The two boys were placed in school, and M. Bonheur paid their way by giving drawing lessons three times a week in the institution. If Rosa did not love school, she must be taught something useful, and she was accordingly placed in a sewing establishment to become a seamstress.

The child hated sewing, ran the needle into her fingers at every stitch, cried for the fresh air and sunshine, and finally, becoming pale and sickly, was taken back to the Bonheur home. The anxious painter would try his child once more in school; so he arranged that she should attend, with compensation met in the same way as for his boys. Rosa soon became a favorite with the girls in the Fauborg St. Antoine School, especially because she could draw such witty caricatures of the teachers, which she pasted against the wall, with bread chewed into the consistency of putty. The teachers were not pleased, but so struck were they with the vigor and originality of the drawings, that they carefully preserved the sketches in an album.

The girl was far from happy. Naturally sensitive, she could not bear to wear a calico dress and coarse shoes, and eat with an iron spoon from a tin cup, when the other girls wore handsome dresses, and had silver mugs and spoons. She grew melancholy, neglected her books, and finally became so ill that she was obliged to be taken home.

And now Raymond Bonheur very wisely decided not to make plans for his child for a time, but see what was her natural tendency. It was well that he made this decision in time, before she had been spoiled by his well-meant but poor intentions.

This is a sample of this biography.



Pictures

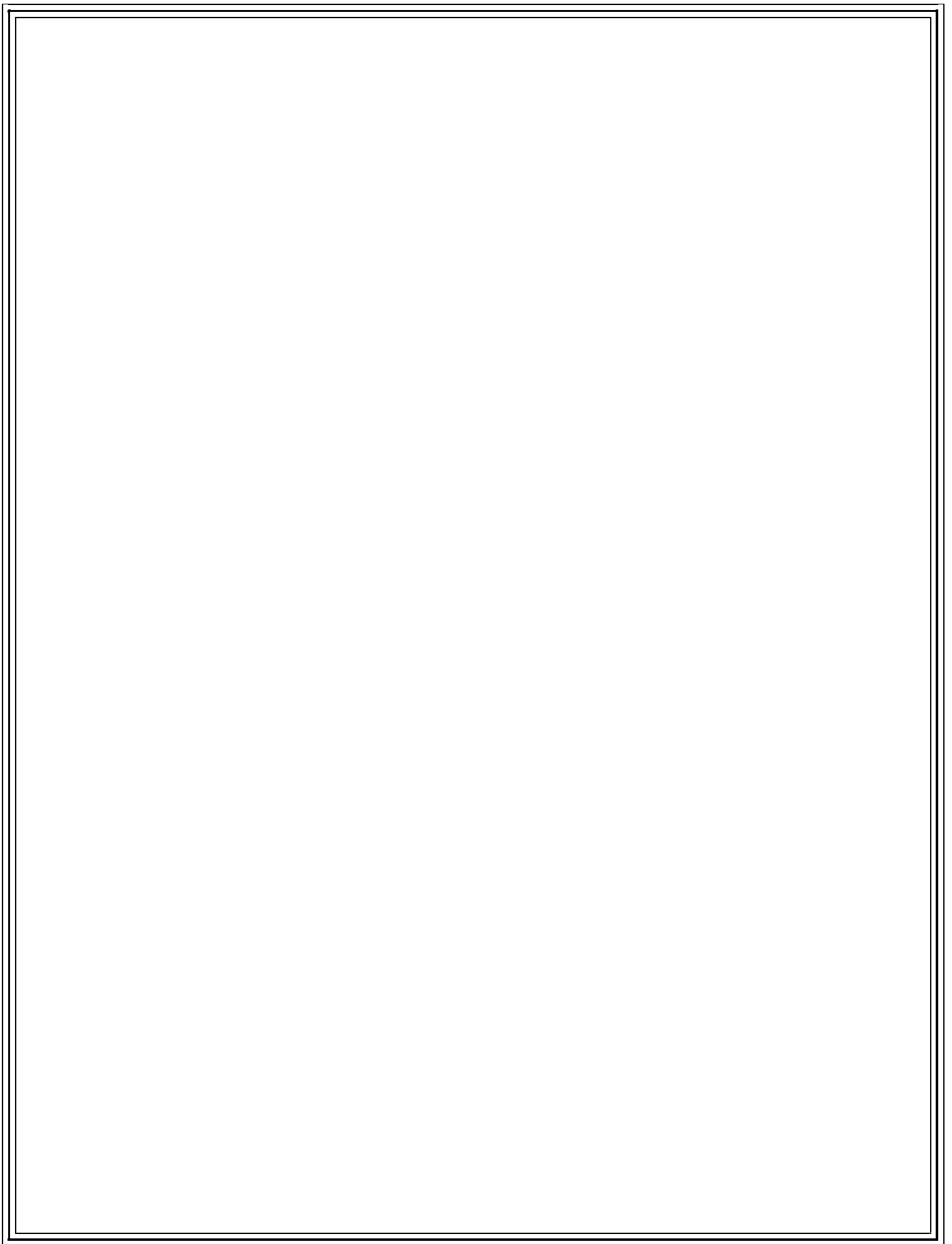
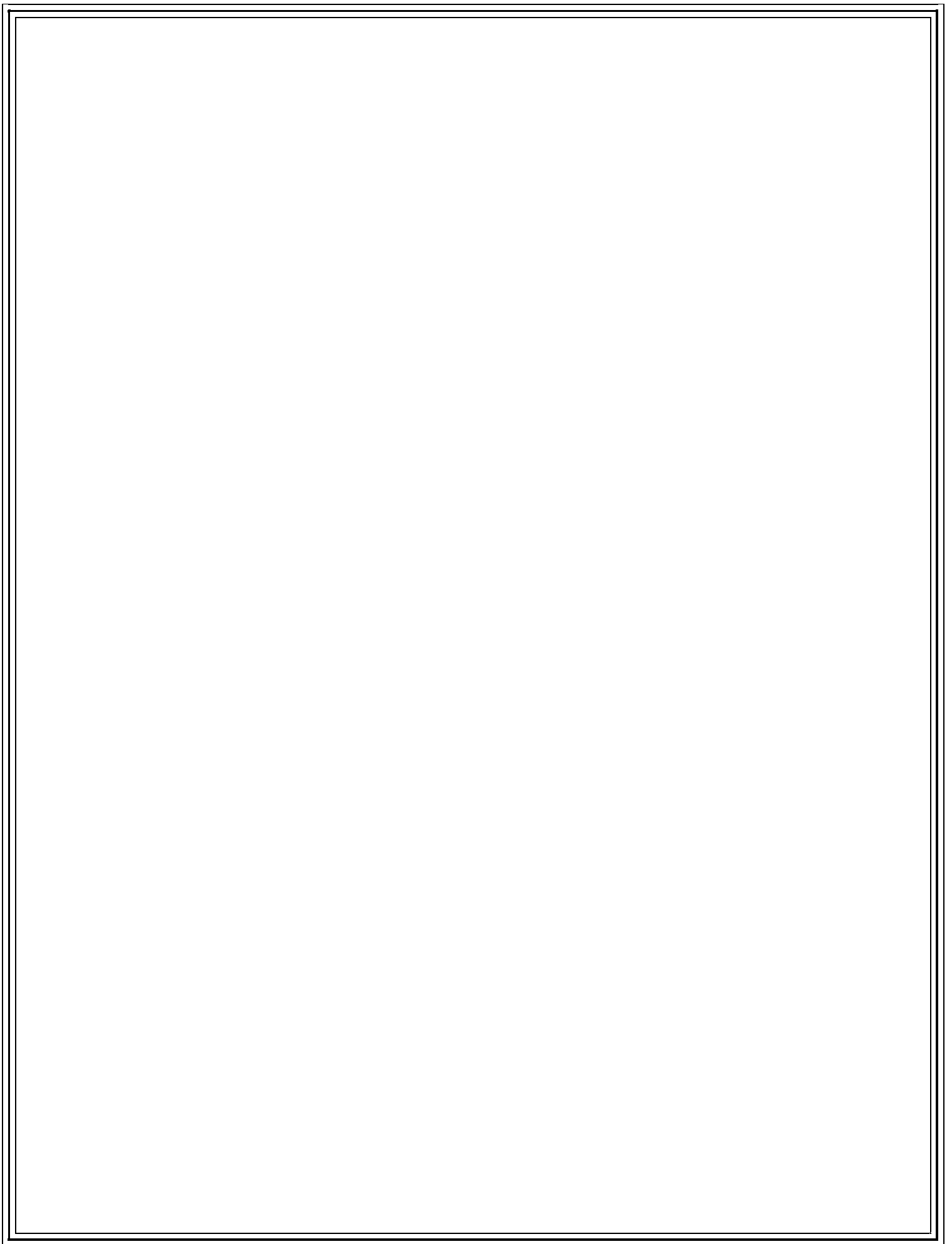
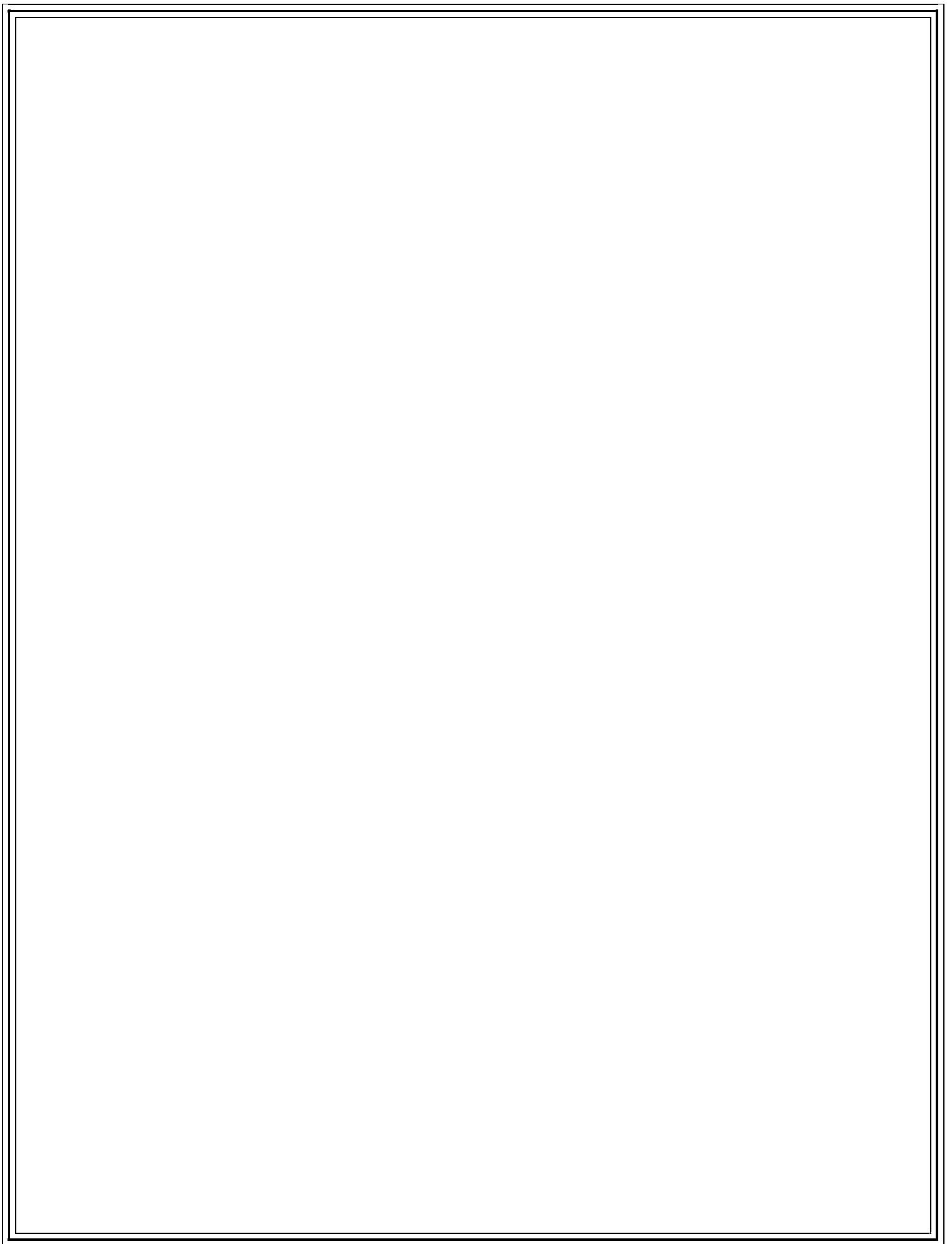




Figure 1



Teaching Notes



There are six images included in each guide.

Figure 5

Title: The Virgin and Child with St. Anne

Date: 1510

Medium: oil on panel

Dimensions: 168cm x 112cm

Location: Louvre, Paris, France

Notes

In this painting, Mary, the infant Jesus and St. Anne, Mary's mother, is portrayed. The lamb symbolizes innocence.

Tell about this painting. What story do you think that Leonardo was trying to tell? Describe the background.

Tell what colors are used. Which parts of the painting are dark and which are light? How does light and darkness affect the way we see the figures?

Figure 6

Title: Portrait of Ginevra Benci

Date: 1474

Medium: oil on wood

Dimensions: 37cm x 42cm

Location: National Gallery of Art

Notes

Ginevra Benci was a young poet, known for her intelligence and gentle spirit. Study her facial expression carefully. What might she be thinking or feeling?

Describe the background of the portrait. What colors are used in this painting? Do the paintings by Leonardo studied so far have similarities? Tell about them.

The plant behind Ginevra is a juniper bush, a symbol of chastity.

Picture Study –End of Term Exam

1. Choose your favorite piece by Giotto studied this term and describe it. Try to describe it as if you are sharing it with someone who has never seen it before. Why is it your favorite?

For Upper Level Students

2. Fully describe *St. Francis Giving His Mantle to a Poor Man*, *Hope* or *St. Francis Preaching to the Birds* by Giotto. Give a rough sketch of the composition of the picture you have chosen.