

# Visual Thinking

## *Sale of Estates Pictures and Slaves in the Rotunda New Orleans*

William Henry Brook, 1842

Zoom in at this link:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/sale-of-estates-pictures-and-slaves-in-the-rotunda-new-orleans-william-henry-brooke/YAHr9QXNcRsS6g>



W. H. Brooke F.S.A.

J. M. Sterling

SALE OF ESTATES, PICTURES AND SLAVES IN THE ROTUNDA, NEW ORLEANS .

# 5 x 2 Thinking Routine

1. Look at the image for a full minute in silence.
2. On your own, list five words or phrases about what you see.
3. Share from your list with the class or a partner.
4. Repeat steps 1 and 2. Try to add five new words or descriptive phrases to your list.
5. Share a new observation with the class. Have the painting open on the screen so you can zoom into it.

**First Look**

**Second Look**

1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

# **Discussion:**

What is happening in this engraving?

What do you see that makes you say that?

# *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano: Slave Auction [Excerpt]*

We were conducted immediately to the merchant's yard, where we were all pent up together, like so many sheep in a fold, without regard to sex or age. . . . We were not many days in the merchant's custody, before we were sold after their usual manner, which is this: On a signal given (as the beat of a drum), the buyers rush at once into the yard where the slaves are confined, and make choice of that parcel they like best. The noise and clamor with which this is attended, and the eagerness visible in the countenances of the buyers, serve not a little to increase the apprehension of terrified Africans, who may well be supposed to consider them as the ministers of that destruction to which they think themselves devoted. In this manner, without scruple, are relations and friends separated, most of them never to see each other again.

I remember, in the vessel in which I was brought over, in the men's apartment, there were several brothers, who, in the sale, were sold in different lots; and it was very moving on this occasion, to see and hear their cries at parting.

# Sensory Prompts

After reading about Olaudah Equiano's experience, what might the people in the painting....

- Hear
- See
- Smell
- Taste
- Feel

# What questions do you have?

*Ask 3 questions of this painting.*

Question prompts:

- Why...?
- How...?
- What are the reasons...?
- What is the purpose...?
- How would it be different if...?
- What if...?
- What if we knew...?
- What would change if...?