

The Lyon Masterpiece of the Month Program

Hi Mom & Dad,

Today one of the Art Parents came into our class and showed us our Masterpiece of the Month. We learned about American illustrator and painter, **Norman Rockwell**, and studied two of his paintings: *Thanksgiving*, and *Freedom From Want*. Norman Rockwell has been called one of the most famous and beloved painters in the world. Read on to find out why.

Norman Rockwell painted the stories of ordinary people, but his pictures were never ordinary. They made people feel special. They gave people hope. Norman Rockwell showed America at its best. If you look closely at Rockwell's paintings, you cannot help to be amazed by the details he shows. Every object has a lot of little things to notice about it. This is part of what makes his art so likeable.

Rockwell painted seven days a week for most of his life. He created nearly four thousand pictures, including eight hundred magazine covers. His most famous paintings were the 324 magazine covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

His earned his first *Post* cover at the age of twenty-one. His covers were a family scrapbook—a bright picture of ordinary America. In the 1930's, Rockwell worked with a camera. He would set up his scenes and photograph them. He would paint while looking at the photographs rather than at live models. This way, he could paint without making people stay in one place for too long.

Norman Rockwell died on November 8, 1978. By then he had grown weak and tired. He had stopped painting, but he still drew with paper and pencil. His last picture was sitting on his easel when he passed away. Rockwell's paintings now hang in important museums, and Rockwell exhibits are shown around the world. His work is still reproduced on calendars and greeting cards. They're everywhere.

Talk to your child about **Norman Rockwell**. I am sure they will have plenty to say!