

# Telling Tales With Art



## About the Artwork:

Paintings can be exhibited in museums even if we don't know who the painter is! This painting, *View of Almshouse*, was done by an **anonymous** artist. It was chosen to hang on the walls of the Michener Art Museum because it is a painting of a location right outside of **Doylestown**. It is believed to be the intersection of Almshouse Road and Route 611 (or Easton Road).

This painting features an **almshouse**, also known as a “poorhouse” — a place built and endowed by private charity for the residence of poor and usually aged people. Well-known author James Michener mentions spending time visiting this almshouse during his childhood at where his aunt was the matron.

## Tell Your Tale!

Paintings can sometimes tell **tales**. Look closely at this painting and write a story about one of the people featured in the painting, such as the woman with the fancy hat.

Be sure to include details about where your character has been, where he/she was going and what his/her life was like. Try to include details from the painting that help us understand life at the **Almshouse** during the late 1800s. Use objects that you see in the painting to support these details that you might find during this time period.

Now, write another short story about visiting the same place today. What difference would we see? How have things changed?

**Image Credits:** *View of Almshouse* (ca. 1900), Unknown, oil on canvas, H. 24 x W. 30.125 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum Anonymous Gift



# A C T I V I T Y S H E E T

EXPLORE  
THROUGH  
THE ART  
DOOR



JAMES A.  
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