

Act it Out!

The Story of William L. Lathrop



William L. Lathrop founded the group of artists called the *New Hope Impressionists* or the *New Hope Art Colony*, who were a group of Pennsylvania Impressionists who lived in *Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Lathrop's wife, Annie, was important to the development of the colony of artists; she held weekly tea parties for the artists every Sunday. What do you think they may have talked about during these parties?

Lathrop was instrumental in establishing this community of artists this community of artists soon after he moved into his home and studio of *Phillips' Mill* in 1899. He was a dedicated teacher, and he mentored several members of the New Hope School's first and second generation of painters. He taught year-round classes in outdoor landscape painting, sometimes using his barge as a floating classroom on the Delaware Canal. His boat was named the *Widge*.

Think About:

- What do you think Lathrop and the other artists from the New Hope Art colony talked about when they held their weekly tea parties at the Lathrop's?
- How could you describe the type of personality Lathrop had? What kind of personality could you give his wife, Annie?
- Do you think the lives of the New Hope Impressionists were easy? Did they have any *obstacles*?
- Think of the *environment* the artists lived in. How did this affect their personalities and their behavior?
- The artwork done by the artists from the New Hope Art Colony can also give us a clue to their personality. Knowing the work of William Lathrop, what can this tell us about his character?

Activity: Act it Out!

Working with a group of friends or family members, recreate a scene in the life of William Lathrop and a typical tea party hosted by Annie, his wife! Your play can be short or as long as you like. Think about the *personalities* of all of the characters in your play. Write out the script, plan the setting and the props you will use for your play.

Don't forget to think about the *movements* and *gestures* of your characters that you will have in your play and think of your *voice*, *posture* and *mannerisms* for each of your characters. This will help illustrate your character! Act out your play in front of friends or family. Have fun!

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