



Seasons of the Smoky Hills

Photographs by George Jerkovich



School Outhouse, Ottawa County, Kansas

invent!

The photographer George Jerkovich (say it Yerk-o-vitch) takes pictures of land and buildings. These kinds of photographs are called **landscapes**. In the title of his pictures, he tells us where he took the photograph and names some of the things in the picture. This is called describing.

Try coming up with a new title for this picture that tells about the feeling or idea the photograph gives you. Here are some questions to think about before you invent a new title:

- What do you see?
- Do you know what an outhouse is? Does your school have one?
- How long do you think this building has been here?
- What has happened to it? What clues does the picture give you?
- If you were standing in the picture, what might you smell or hear or feel?
- What feelings do you have about the picture or anything in it?

New Title:

You can invent new titles for any of the other pictures you see in this booklet.

vocabulary

landscape: (*noun*) a picture of natural scenery OR the land that can be seen in one glance

describing: (*adjective*) serving to describe or to represent in words

talk!

Artists and photographers often show us special places. Artists want viewers to respond to their work by thinking about the places they show. Look at these pictures alone and together.

Find a partner – mom or dad or your friend, brother or sister – and ask each other these questions. Listen to the things you say that are alike and to things you find out about the pictures because you each have different ways of seeing and thinking.

vocabulary

realistic: (*adjective*) true to life or nature

Salemsborg Church, Fall, Saline County, Kansas

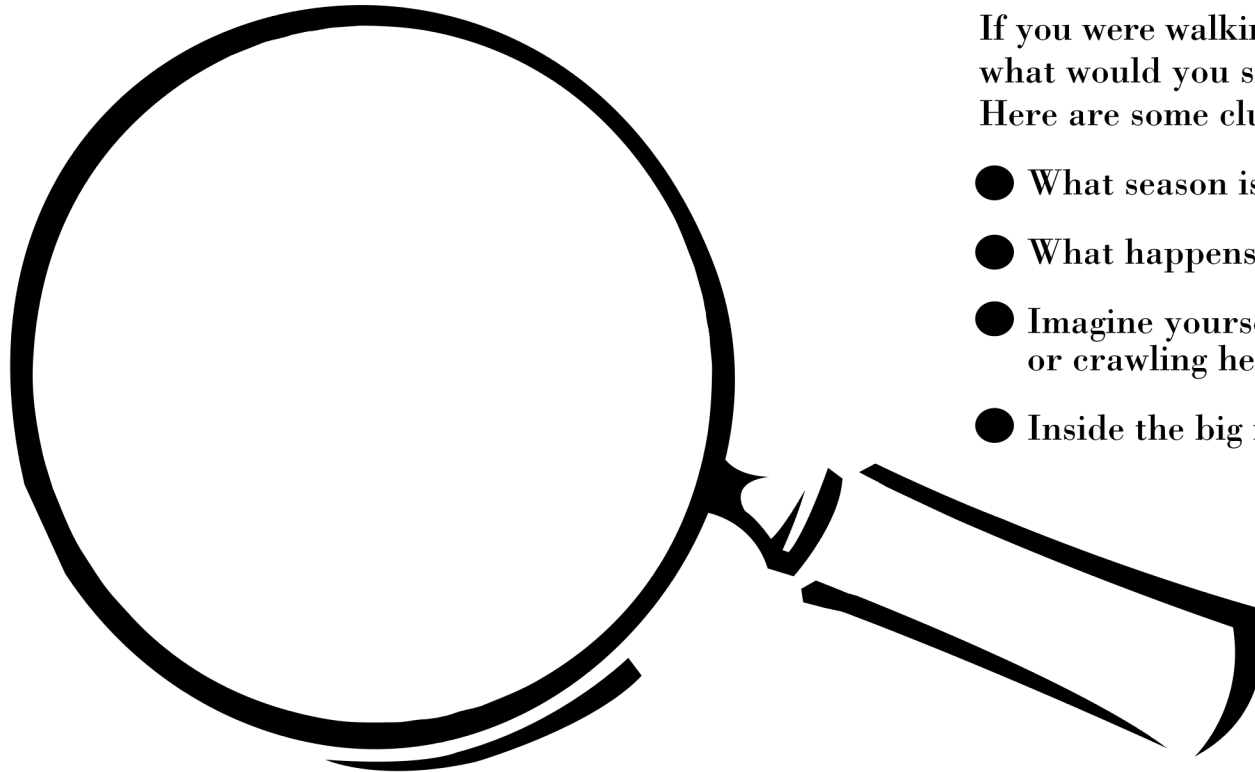


Salemsborg Church, Winter, Saline County, Kansas

- What has the photographer chosen to show you in these pictures?
- Imagine what this place looks like in the spring or summer. What would be different?
- Do you feel you might have been here or at a place like it in your own life? Or is it someplace you might like to go one day?
- Think about you. Does the place feel bigger or smaller than you? Do you think that you are part of the place? Or has the photographer made you feel like you are a distant observer?
- Does this particular place seem very **realistic**? Or does it seem in some way better than the real thing? What makes you think this might be true?

investigate!

Spring, Woodlands, Saline County, Kansas



If you were walking through the woods and came to this place, what would you see that is invisible in this photograph?

Here are some clues:

- What season is it?
- What happens during that season?
- Imagine yourself standing, walking, kneeling, sitting or crawling here.
- Inside the big magnifying glass, draw what you might see.



Find a window and look outside. Study the sky. What color is it? What shapes or objects do you see? Can you find a photograph here that reminds you of the sky today?

solve!

Do you see any people in this picture?

Can you find at least three clues in this photograph that people have been here?



School, Lincoln County, Kansas

1 _____

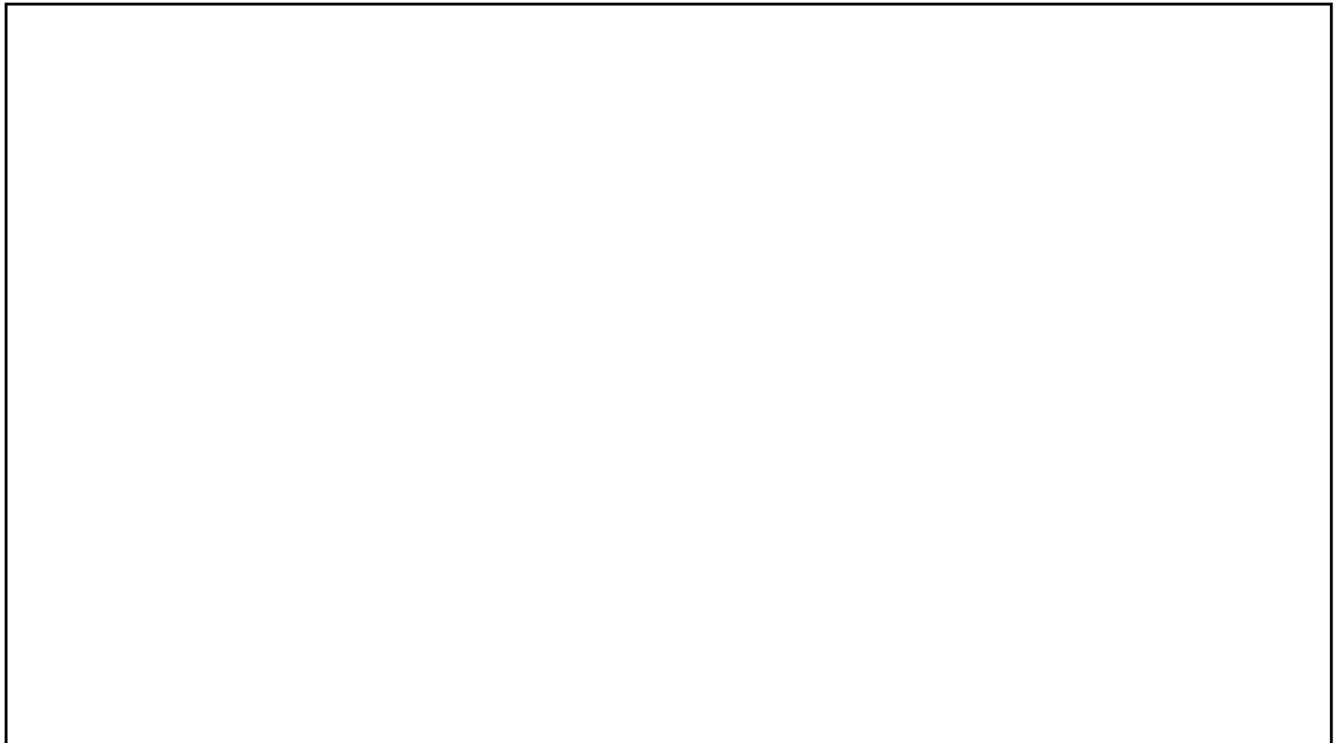
2 _____

3 _____

Think of your school. Imagine that you are a visitor from the year 2096 – ninety years in the future. Will your school still be where it is now? Will it look just the same? What might you see in 2096 at the place where your school is now? Draw it or write about it in the space to the right.



Can you find a picture that looks like a place that has never been visited by humans?



experiment!

George Jerkovich has chosen to make both of these pictures vertical. Why?

Find the **horizon** in each of these pictures. Trace over it with your finger.

What part of each picture do you think is more important – sky or land?

What part of the picture do you think is more important in *Sunset, Salina Co., Ks*? Which part is more important in *Ellsworth County Hills*?

Turn these photographs on their sides. What do they look like now? Turn them upside down. Talk about what you see that you did not notice when you were looking at them right side up!

vocabulary

horizon: (*noun*) the line where the earth or sea seems to meet the sky



Sunset, Saline County, Kansas



Ellsworth County Hills

write!

Choose one photograph. Make sure it's one you like a lot. While you look at it, make three lists on this page:

Things in picture (*nouns*)

Actions in picture (*-ing verbs*)

Descriptions from picture (*adjectives*)

Make your lists as long as you like! Now, read your lists across instead of up and down. Rearrange words. Add connecting words. Move whole lines around. Think of a title and rewrite your finished poem below:

example

telephone	burning	red
pole	clearing	smoky
flames	shining	charred
grass	crackling	bright
smoke	sweeping	dry
sky	moving	upright
glare	standing	still
fire		

Summer field

Telephone pole burning red,
flames crackling bright.
Grass shining before the sweeping
smoky glare of the sky.

Telephone Pole, Saline County, Kansas

your poem

draw!

Some people might not believe this is a picture of Kansas, but it is a photograph taken in Saline County – the county where you are right now! This

building is a shelter and lookout atop Coronado Heights, a hill that rises more than 300 feet above the Smoky Hill River Valley near Lindsborg. Some people believe that the Spanish explorer Coronado visited the hill in 1541.

The “castle” was built in 1936 (about 70 years ago) during the Great Depression. People who did not have jobs were paid to work by the government for the Work Projects Administration. In Kansas, some of those people built this shelter. Inside is a fireplace, concrete tables, and a staircase to the top where you can look out over the countryside.



Coronado Heights Shelter

- Why do you think the shelter is built to look like a castle?
- With a computer, we have made the shelter in George Jerkovich’s photograph disappear (*below*).
- If you got to design a shelter for the top of this hill today, what would you design? A space city? A western ranch? A skyscraper? Use your imagination and draw **YOUR** shelter into the photograph.



look!

For this activity you'll need to cut out your viewfinder on the back of this booklet.

The photographer makes choices about how he will take each photograph. Sometimes he makes a **horizontal** picture, and sometimes he chooses a **vertical** picture.

Look around the museum with your viewfinder. Choose something to view that is **NOT** one of the photographs. Look at this thing through the viewfinder in both directions. What do you notice? If you were going to take a photograph of this thing, which way would you choose to hold your camera? Why?



vocabulary

viewfinder: (*noun*) a device on a camera that shows the view being photographed by the camera

horizontal: (*adjective*) parallel to the horizon; level

vertical: (*adjective*) going straight up or down from a level surface

Written by Lori Brack
Design by Pam Harris



This project was funded in part by the Horizons Grants Program of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission.

Funding is provided by Horizons, a private donor group, and the City of Salina.



211 W. Iron
Salina, KS 67401
785-309-5776