

Two Views of Children's Play

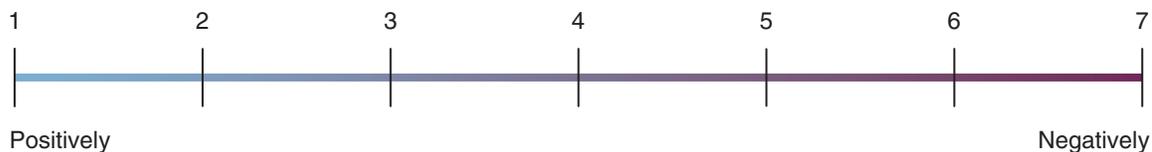
Please look carefully at the painting *Children's Games*, which was painted by the Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder in 1560, and respond to the questions that follow it. You should mark the scales the same way you did on Handout 2.1.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

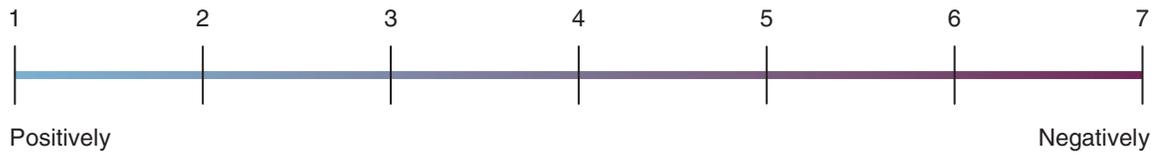
Look carefully at the image and respond to the questions that follow:

1. How does Bruegel feel about children? What makes you say so? Look at specific details and explain how they work to establish Bruegel's meaning and what effect they were designed to have on his audience.



(Continued)

2. How does Bruegel feel about play? What makes you say so? Once again, look at specific details and explain how they work to establish Bruegel's meaning and what effect they were designed to have on his audience.



3. Think about and write down two or three details in the image you would change if you wanted to communicate a different attitude toward children or play.

4. What conversations is this painting entering into? And what comment is it making or turn is it taking in this conversation?

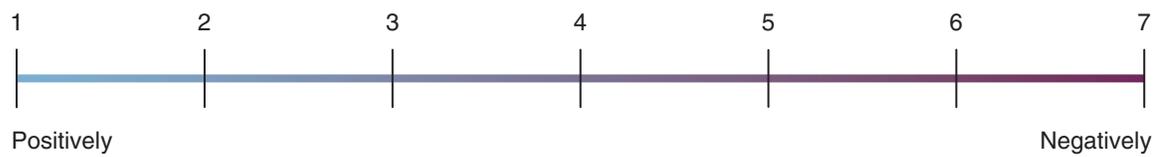
The next piece of art for you to examine, composed around the same time as Bruegel's, also depicts children at play. Pieter van der Borcht produced this engraving in 1559. It's called *The Cobbler's Unruly Family* or *The Cobbler and His Wife as a Teacher*.



Source: Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

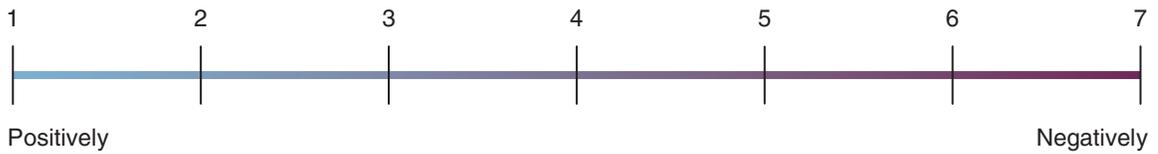
Look carefully at the image and respond to the questions that follow:

- How does van der Borcht feel about children? What makes you say so? Look at specific details and explain how they work to establish van der Borcht's meaning and what effect they were designed to have on his audience.



(Continued)

6. How does van der Borcht feel about play? What makes you say so? Look at specific details and explain how they work to establish van der Borcht's meaning and what effect they were designed to have on his audience.



7. What details in the engraving support your judgments?

8. Think about and write down two or three details in the image you would change if you wanted to communicate a different attitude toward children or play.

9. What conversations is this engraving entering into? And what comment is it making or turn is it taking in this conversation? How does this compare to the perspective, comment, and turn that Bruegel's work offers?
