

**Sample Museum Field Trip  
to the Madison Museum of Fine Art**

with 250 Third Graders

Kelly Seagraves

Spanish Teacher, Morgan County Elementary School

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*Our experience at the Madison Museum of Fine Art was FANTASTICO!! Along with Laura Rice, the art teacher at MCES, I took my Spanish classes to observe and study two paintings by Salvador Dali and view other artwork by Spanish artists. My classes spent the week prior to our visit studying Dali. I introduced pieces of his artwork as well as information about his life. Because the two Dali's are of Don Quijote, I also introduced this famous Spanish character. We talked about our dreams, surrealism and took some time to draw 'Mi Dali' (our own version of a Salvador Dali/surreal work). Upon arriving at the museum Ms. Rice aided the students in reading a painting. After looking at all of the elements in English, I turned their attention towards the Dali's. The students then engaged in a conversation led in Spanish about this artwork. It was amazing to see what the students recalled about the artists, their work, and general Spanish terminology. Upon returning to the classroom, we have spent some time following-up and reflecting on our experiences by writing fictitious postcards to a friend, teacher, or artist. The students included Spanish vocabulary and drew a picture depicting their favorite work or experience of the trip.*

*I found this field trip very worthwhile for my students. First, they were able to experience the authenticity of a museum as well as learn proper etiquette and behavior. As a Spanish component, the children were introduced to some very famous Spanish artists who have impacted all of society. The children were able to also use their language outside the classroom in a very appropriate setting. My students enjoyed seeing what their local town had to offer and many returned the following weekend or week with their parents and family. I feel that preparing my students with the basic information about Dali added to their ability to interact with the artwork. In the future, I would try to equip my students with even more prior knowledge and therefore have more to reflect on in the museum and after the experience.*