So using art in the curriculum or teaching in your classroom is an amazing way to inspire your children to look and to really take apart the paintings and enjoy them themselves.

I'm fully aware, though, that looking at art and using art is something that might not be comfortable with yourselves as a non-art specialist. I'm just going to give you a couple of tips of how you might want to take any painting and just have a look at them with your class. Stage one is look. It's the simple things that you can spot.
So you ask your children, what can you see in this painting? For example, we have a dog just here. There's two ladies under a parasol. We have a large boat here. There's a man in a mask over there.

There's the tent just here in the middle of the buildings. Things that are fact, things that you can see. The second stage is to start trying to piece those together. What might they be doing so we can start to interpret? Is there a conversation going on here?

Can we tell anything about the people in this boat? Maybe comparing them and comparison is always a good way for people in this boat. How are they different? What are they doing in their activities? Over this side, we've got the man with the mask.

What's he doing there? Why has he got his mask on? And then the dog over here is listening in to all of this and watching. The third stage is to then take it further and be creative. Start thinking about what conversations could be going on between the people in the boat.

What do they think is going on in the area behind him? There's a great piece of creative writing here in the marketplace, in the center, there are stalls selling all sorts of different items. What might they be selling as part of this scene? All of those things can take place without you needing to know the artist, the location, or even the time that it was painted. So it really frees up the way that you can use paintings for your teaching.