

Background information 1

Background information 2

Background information 3

The Boat, painted in 1986, is a classic example of his work. (thesis)

The Boat is a simple and colorful painting. (topic sentence)

Supporting Ideas / Details 1

Supporting Ideas / Details 2

Supporting Ideas / Details 3

This painting is appealing in that it is bright and simplistic. (topic sentence)

Supporting Ideas / Details 1

Supporting Ideas / Details 2

Supporting Ideas / Details 3

Still, not all of Harrison's paintings express positive emotions. (topic sentence)

Supporting Ideas / Details 1

Supporting Ideas / Details 2

Supporting Ideas / Details 3

Concluding Opinion

But it would be a mistake to dismiss Harrison's paintings as suitable only for elementary school students, as they provide valuable insight into the landscape and lifestyle in this part of the world. (final thought)

The Boat is a painting by British Canadian artist Ted Harrison (1926-2015). Ted Harrison was a former art teacher who lived in Malaysia and New Zealand before moving to northern Canada in his 40s.

At first glance, Ted Harrison's paintings look childish, with bright colors and simple lines. This is his distinct style, which made him famous.

However, through his paintings, he expressed a variety of emotions about life in the far north. In doing so, he painted the north in a way that no other artist has ever done.

The Boat, painted in 1986, is a classic example of his work. (thesis)

The Boat is a simple and colorful painting. (topic sentence)

The painting shows three people (perhaps a mother, father, and daughter), who have just finished a journey in a small boat, in a remote landscape in northern Canada. They are wearing winter coats, but the women are not wearing hats.

With their dark hair, they possibly represent Canada's indigenous population, which is a common theme in Harrison's paintings. The people are walking away from the boat, but Harrison does not show us anything about them.

We need to use our imagination to guess who they are and where they are going. The painting is typical of Harrison's style in that the lines are clean and bold, and the colors are unrealistic. The boat is bright orange, and there is a pink sky, a yellow lake, and a purple beach.

This painting is appealing in that it is bright and simplistic. (topic sentence)

Harrison says he was influenced by British artists such as L. S. Lowry and Norman Cornish, who painted everyday scenes of ordinary people. Harrison did not paint portraits of people in a formal studio.

He painted people doing normal things: playing baseball, going on a school field trip, or playing in the snow. People instantly find a personal connection with his paintings, as they remember doing these activities themselves.

As an art teacher, Harrison had received formal art training, and he certainly knew how to paint realistic scenes. Despite that, he chose to bring his own style to his work, using bright colors to express joyful emotions.

Still, not all of Harrison's paintings express positive emotions. (topic sentence)

While Harrison is known for his use of bright colors, this often disguises another theme in his paintings: the reality of life in the far north. In *The Boat*, the people are alone on the beach.

They have their heads down, and their hair is blowing in the wind, suggesting a feeling of discomfort. On the other side of the water there is a house, which may be the house they have traveled from.

There are no other buildings. Harrison is showing the difficulties of living far from others in a very cold climate. There are three black birds on the boat. Harrison's paintings sometimes included black birds, and we can only speculate about whether Harrison intended these to symbolize bad luck or a dark future.

Ted Harrison's work clearly shows incredible artistic talent and a unique approach to painting, particularly of a specific landscape. His art is popular with young children, and many are taught how to paint a "Ted Harrison—style" picture at school.

But it would be a mistake to dismiss Harrison's paintings as suitable only for elementary school students, as they provide valuable insight into the landscape and lifestyle in this part of the world. (final thought)