

Allegory in Art

Allegory Comparisons

Name _____

STEP 1 - Instructions

Don't look at the title of these paintings on the labels until you have completed these worksheets.

North Pavilion, Gallery N205



This was painted by Italian artist Dosso Dossi in about 1530.

East Pavilion, Gallery E201



This was painted by Italian artist Salvator Rosa in about 1658-1659.

These paintings by Salvator Rosa and Dosso Dossi were made about 130 years apart. Each painting portrays an allegory. Can you decode the allegories? On the two worksheets that follow, circle the best answer to each question, then write the letter that is underlined in the blank spaces at the bottom of the page to spell out the name of the allegory.





Go to the North Pavilion and find this painting in Gallery N205.

STEP 1A

Look at the painting and circle the correct answers.

1. The woman is holding an object that contains leaves and...
dragon baby fruit
2. What color is the drapery, or cloth, around the woman?
gold purple blue
3. What color is the drapery, or cloth, around the man?
blue red yellow
4. What is the man holding in his hands?
lottery tickets a trophy paint tubes
5. What is the large object that the woman is holding?
cornucopia bird paint brush
6. Notice the man is sitting on a rock. The woman is...
jumping giggling kneeling
7. What is the woman missing on her right foot?
sock shoe laces

cornucopia: a goat's horn overflowing with fruit, flowers, and corn, signifying prosperity

Write the **underlined** letters from each word that you circled above, in the order they appear.

This painting is an allegory of:

Check the label next to the painting for the answer.





Go to the East Pavilion and find this painting in Gallery E201.

STEP 1B

Look at the painting and circle the correct answers.

1. The items in the woman's container seem to be...

falling on the animals rising up to the sky

2. What color is the woman's clothing?

gold orange purple

3. What color is the cloth covering the donkey?

blue purple red

4. Circle the item that is NOT in the foreground of the painting.
Notice that the animals are trampling objects in the foreground (the part of a picture that seems nearest to the viewer).

palette books chisel

palette: a small board, usually with a hole for the thumb, that artists use to mix paint colors. **chisel:** a metal tool with a sharp edge, used by artists to cut and shape stone, wood, or metal.

5. What is the woman holding?

cornucopia vase bowl

cornucopia: a goat's horn overflowing with fruit, flowers, and corn, signifying prosperity

6. Circle the object in this painting that symbolizes wealth and power.

crown trophy shield

7. How many animals are in this painting?

seven eight nine

Write the **underlined** letters from each word that you circled above, in the order they appear.

This painting is an allegory of:

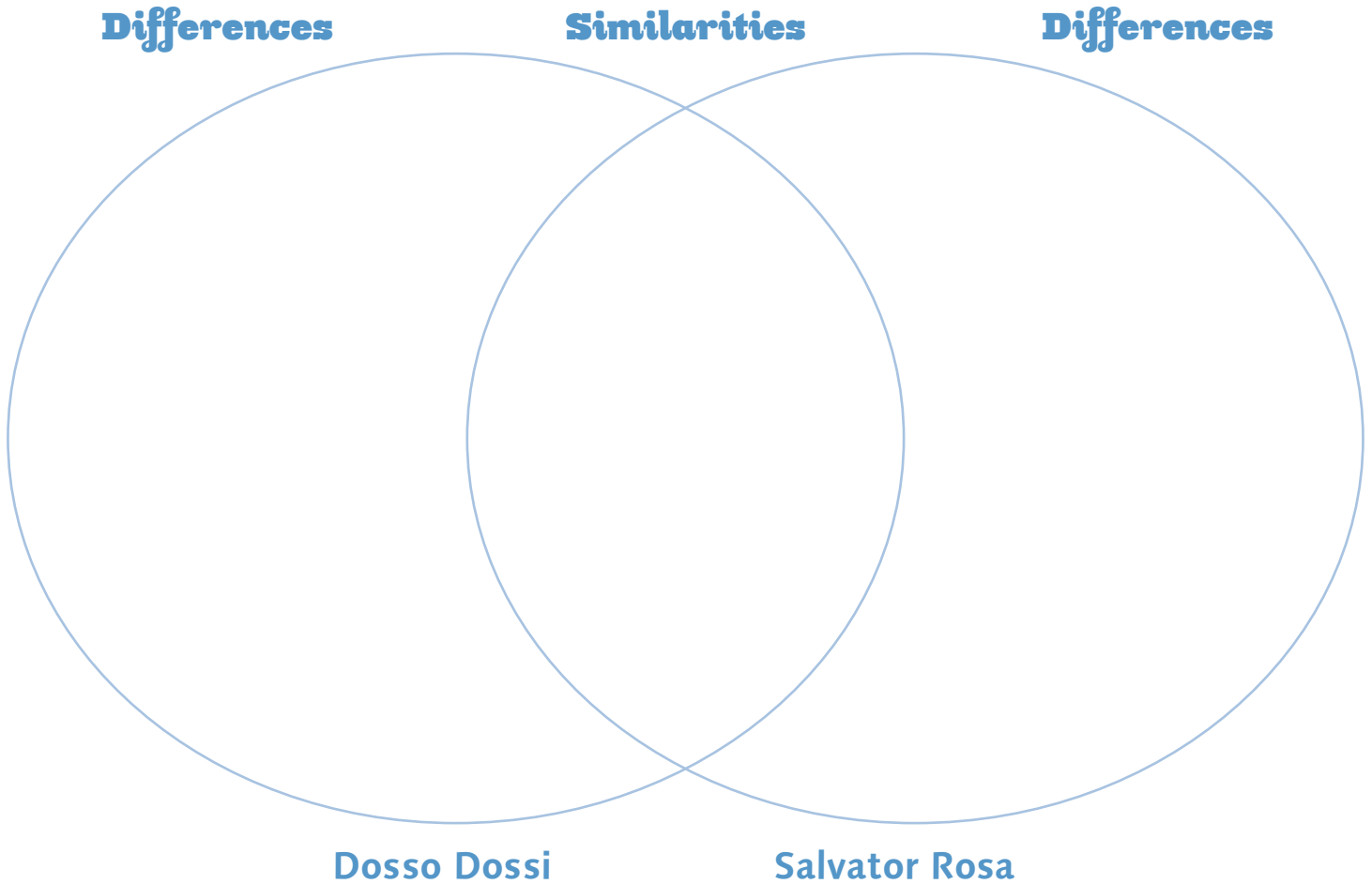
Check the label next to the painting for the answer.



Allegory in Art: Allegory Comparisons

STEP 2A

After looking at the paintings by Salvator Rosa and Dosso Dossi, compare the paintings, and list their similarities and differences in the Venn diagram below.









How did the artists illustrate the allegory of Fortune differently?



Allegory in Art: Allegory Comparisons

STEP 2B

Think about the symbols in the paintings by Dossi and Rosa. Some of these are listed in the left column below. How does each relate to the allegory represented in both paintings? Write words in the right column that you associate with these symbols.

Objects	Associations
 Cornucopia	Example: food, Thanksgiving, abundance, autumn
 Coins	
 Lottery tickets	
 Plants and fruit	
 Crown	
 Farm animals	

Did you repeat any words in the "Associations" column? How do these words relate to the allegory you uncovered in the paintings?



Allegory in Art: Allegory Comparisons

STEP 3

With a partner or a group of students, use the following questions to start a discussion.

- 1 In his painting *Allegory of Fortune*, Dossi seems to send us the message that Fortune can also bring misfortune. He depicts her sitting on a bubble (which could burst), and her billowing drapery reminds us that she is changeable, like the wind. Thus, in this image of Fortune she is fleeting, meaning she only stays for a short time, then moves on.
 - a Do you believe that fortune, or luck, exists?
 - b Talk about a time in your life when you felt really lucky and fortunate.
 - c Was there a time in your life when you felt really unlucky? Share your story.

- 2 In his painting of the same allegory, Rosa paints a different character. His Fortune is shown recklessly dumping the contents of her cornucopia onto the farm animals, which trample on books and an artist's palette lying on the ground.
 - a What do you think Rosa is trying to say about Fortune?
 - b How would you explain the different interpretations by each artist?
 - c Did you notice other details or symbols in the paintings that support these interpretations?

