

High Renaissance Art

Art Discussed:

Raphael, *Madonna in the Meadow*

Raphael, *Galatea*

Raphael, *School of Athens*

HW:

Activity Sheet

Raphael, *Madonna in the Meadow*

- Triangular composition echoing Leonardo
- Atmospheric perspective, sun-drenched landscape
- Clear, ordered and deceptively simple composition, but poses complex
- Tenderness and love expressed
- Graceful, tender expressions
- Strong diagonals control composition

Raphael, *Galatea*

- Galatea pursued by Polyphemus
- Galatea's head turns left, arms right, hips left, legs frontal
- Triangular compositional elements
- Twisting bodies seem natural but are highly complex
- Suggests wheeling movement and spontaneity

Raphael, *School of Athens*

- Painted for Pope Julius II's library/study
- Greek philosophers of ancient world in muted conversation
- No dominant colors, weaving of various hues
- Clear, open piazza-like structure
- Perspective points to two central figures under a barrel vault that resembles Saint Peter's by Bramante

- Plato and Aristotle in center as greatest of philosophers
- Plato has Leonardo's features
- Plato points up revealing his philosophy of another ideal world
- Aristotle points outward to indicate that this material world is the only world
- Bramante as Euclid, balding, in lower right
- Raphael second from the far right, among the scientists, mathematicians and astronomers
- Michelangelo, as Heraclitus, composing a sonnet in the front foreground painted in his own style