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Week one Writing Assignment  
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I have never been inspired by art in the form of paintings before. Even though I could perceive a piece as nice or well painted, I can honestly say that I never looked at a painting with such critical or even understanding eyes. The flight into Egypt by Henry Ossawa Tanner is the first painting that speaks to me. Besides the obvious of being a beautiful painting, there are many aspects of the painting that make this story significant. The colors that were picked which allow the interpreter to see the time of day that the escape began. Seeing the dark archway behind them and the dirt road in front of them puts the viewer in the story. While Henry Ossawa Tanner has painted many different renditions of the Flight into Egypt, the painting of 1923 is very striking.

The 1923 painting shows Mary cradling Jesus while riding on a donkey with Joseph behind her and another man walking in front of them with a lamp. The lamp is said to cast the shadow to depict the danger which was following behind them. But the man with the lamp seems to illuminate the scripture that says he is lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. It also shows me Psalm 23, ***yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.*** With death seemingly on their tails their journey is only beginning. The lamp is also illuminating the door which reminds me that he is the way the truth and the life as well as the scripture in John 10:9 which says, ***I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and go in and out and find pasture.***

Indeed, Jesus is the door, even as a child and to see the door with such emphasis of light tells me there is more than meets the eye. Looking at this painting I would also determine that the man with the lamp could be viewed as the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is said to be a guide and here he is guiding them out of the city. This painting has feeling, and depth yet is simplistic. The details he carefully put into this painting makes this a masterpiece. I would say this painting preaches a message, tells a story, defines characters and describes a situation.