

## Adaptation and the Process of Assimilation in Chicago

### Close Analysis Questions: *Under the El (train)—Selling Watermelons*

Look closely at Jon Jones's *Under the El (train)—Selling Watermelons*. Work with one or two other students to answer the following questions about the painting.

1. Look at the people in this image. What do you notice about them? How would you describe them?
2. Where are these people? What details do you notice in the surroundings?
3. What is their relationship to their surroundings? Do the people seem to fit into the environment or stand out from it?
4. What colors, shapes, and style has the artist used to convey the relationship of these people with their environment?
5. Read the informational text about this painting. What further insights does it give you about the painting and about the artist?
6. Think about the title of the painting. What further information does it reveal?
7. What message do you think this painting expresses about adapting and assimilating to a new environment?