Adaptation and the Process of Assimilation in Chicago

Close Analysis Questions: Strange Worlds

Look closely at Todros Geller’s Strange Worlds. Work with one or two other students to answer the following questions about the painting.

1. Look at the man in the foreground of this painting. What do you notice about him? How would you describe the person or the people?

2. Where is he? What details do you notice about his surroundings?

3. What is the man’s relationship to his surroundings? Does he seem to fit into the environment or stand out from it?

4. What colors, shapes, and style has the artist used to convey the man’s relationship with his 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 do you think the artist means by that title? What “strange worlds” are present in this painting?

7. What message do you think this painting expresses about adapting and assimilating to a new environment?