

## Transparency 3



*Acrobats at the Cirque Fernando, 1879*  
Pierre Auguste Renoir

### Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think Renoir focused more on the girls' appearance than on their emotions?

### Classroom Activities

#### *Language Arts*

1. Circus troupes often travel extensively. Have students chart a circus's fictional itinerary to six European cities and write postcards to friends describing the sights they would have seen and things they would have done in each locale.
2. Have each student compose a short story using this painting as a starting point or a finishing point. Have students share their stories with the entire class.

#### *Social Studies*

1. Although this painting presents a charming image of youth, it is also an image of two girls at work. Have students research the use of children in the work force from the 19th century to the present. How have the circumstances under which children work changed during this period?
2. Have students discuss how clothing helps us identify ourselves and others. Have students consider how clothing indicates social affiliation, profession, or religion. Are there any kinds of clothing or ornamentation in our culture that derive from other cultures? Is there anything we identify as "American" that is worn in other places? Have students look through newspapers or magazines and discuss what we know about people from looking at their clothing.
3. As a class, discuss other kinds of performances seen in a circus. Have students work in small groups and create a performance. Students can make their own props (hats, makeup, etc.). Use items like balls, hula-hoops, bean bags, stuffed animals, etc. Invite another class to the circus performance. Have students sell tickets and make snacks to sell.

Alternate: Have students research the origins of the circus. At what point did this become a popular entertainment?