



**Boating** (Edouard Manet, 1874, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York). This work was painted in Argenteuil where Manet had a house and where he frequently hung out with the young impressionists Monet and Renoir. Manet was more of a realistic painter but the influence of his impressionist buddies can be seen in the looser brush strokes and style of this picture. We can also see the influence of Japanese prints-- a major artistic influence at this time-- in the blocks of color and the strong diagonals. Looking at this work we immediately notice the beautiful intensity of the blue palette and the unusual cropping of the painting makes it feel as if we are about to step onto the boat ourselves. And of course we notice the feeling of light and air that are the hallmarks of all impressionist style paintings. But see how much more relaxing the painting appears with the insertion of an indolent Hound lolling next to the sailor. Notice the helpful paw the Hound has placed on the sailor's knee, alerting him, no doubt, to some navigational error he is about to commit or perhaps to the proximity of a tasty fish. ("*Wimsey Boating*")