

A New Beginning

At the start of a new beginning, we tend to be hopeful and hesitant. We hope we can meet the expectations of others: for course work, employers, and people we live with. We also hope they will meet our expectations of fairness and cooperation.

1. What do you hope to gain from your courses, employment, or people in your living situation? Pick one area and explain it to the others in your group.
2. Tell about a time when you felt the expectations of course work, employers, or family were too great. How did you handle the pressure of not being able to meet their expectations?
3. The Old Testament prophet Micah describes what God expects of people, "He has shown you, O mortal (to be human and subject to death), what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy (compassion) and to walk humbly (without arrogance) with your God."
Restate the author's message in your own words.
Why do you think God asks these things from people?
4. The title of the painting is "Improvisation," which means to create something without previous preparation. Why do you think Kandinsky gave this title to the painting? How might the ability to improvise be helpful to success in a new endeavor?
Draw a picture of your hopes or expectations for the new beginning of the school year, or the start of a new job or living situation and share it with the others in your group.



Vasily Kandinsky. Improvisation 28 (second version), 1912. Oil on canvas, 11.4 x 162.1 cm. Guggenheim Museum, New York

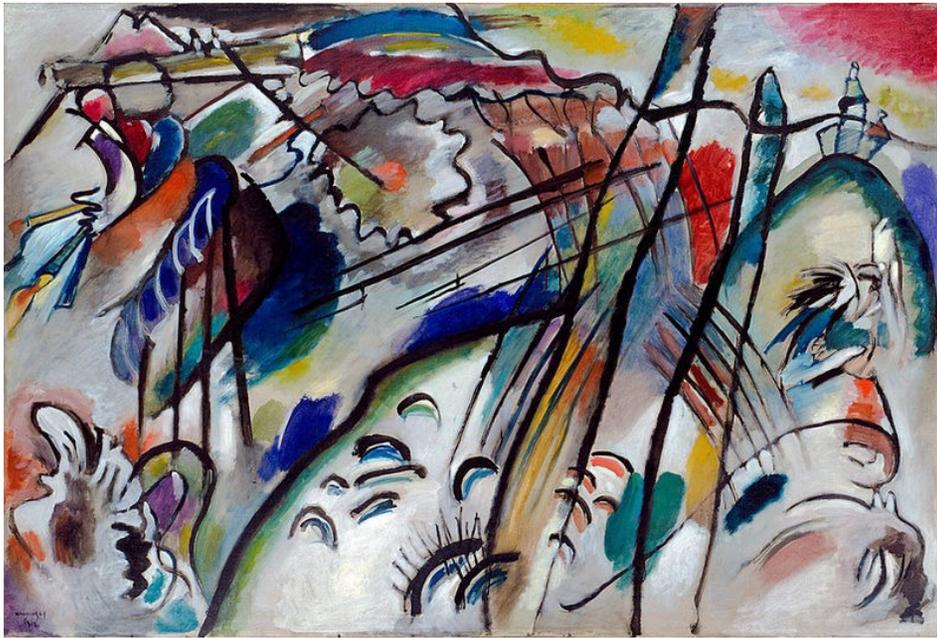
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