Now it’s your turn to draw a ship!
Don’t forget to add secret symbols
that tell its story.

Can your drawing answer these questions?
Where is your ship?  Where’s it going?  Why?
Where’s it from?  What’s the weather like?
Is everyone okay?

Visit the museum to find the real Report Me All Well. It’s
10½ feet tall!

Learn to read a painting!

Report Me All Well
by Charles Robert Patterson, 1933
Everything tells a story...

Artists add details to act like clues for hidden meaning in their paintings.

A picture's worth 1,000 words!

WHAT'S THE SHIP'S NAME?
Always a good place to start. With some research, we learn that this Bath-built vessel was used for trade with California. Back then, to get from Maine to California meant sailing around Cape Horn, the southern tip of South America. Here, the W.R. Grace has rounded Cape Horn and is heading north in the Pacific.

ARE FLAGS FLYING?
Sometimes you can tell a ship's country from its flags. Other times you can read a message from the captain. Signal flags are like a nautical language. Each flag corresponds to a letter, with different combinations meaning different things. Here, the Grace has hoisted the flags B Q D, or, "Report me all well."

ANYTHING ON THE HORIZON?
The horizon is a great place to look for clues. You might find a recognizable landmark, a storm, or another ship. The South Pacific is a lonely stretch of ocean, so crossing paths with someone would be exciting. After being at sea for months with no way to call home, the Grace's signal flags sent a message to be passed from port to port, eventually informing families, "All is well."

SHIP PORTRAIT
SCAVenger HUNT

Click here for an up-close look at Report Me All Well, then find the following clues. Circle their location on the picture below.

CLUES:
A star that's not up in the sky
A pesky sail that wants to fly
A distant ship that's passing by Courageous sailors way up high

The more sail a ship has, the faster it will go! How many sails can you count on the W.R. Grace? Write your answer here: 

Now that you can read a painting, visit MMM's online collection to find symbols in our other portraits! Just search, "Maine Maritime Museum" at Google Arts & Culture.

Share your findings with us on Facebook, or by email at milardo@maritimemem.org!