

A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte

by Jerry Ratch

A woman is fishing in the Seine at the far left
of the painting, while time is suspended and light
remains. One man plays a trumpet. A half dozen
people sit or walk under parasols. Couples stroll
and children run or sit or stand beside their
parents. A woman on the lawn is knitting
while she sits with her gentleman. A black dog
sniffs. The tall couple in the right foreground
stroll in perfect and symmetric profile in full Sunday
attire with cane and parasol. She walks her monkey
There is a flower in her hat, and in her gentleman's lapel
While in the background, a couple is walking away
and a woman caresses her man
as he bends toward her. And on the river that is full
of reflection, white sails, long boats
And in the left foreground, a sportsman or worker
in cap and sleeveless orange shirt, smokes his pipe
looking out at the river, as the sunlight
on the Island of La Grande Jatte
begins to creep up his leg made of dots

