



Fra Angelico, *The Annunciation*, 1450, Fresco. Located in the San Marco Convent. Dover Pub.

Look at *The Annunciation*, by Fra Angelico, 1450.

Take a few minutes to quietly observe the painting. Notice what's in the painting. Where is this? What are the people doing? Who are the people? What colors are used? Notice the observable facts, then ask the following questions.

- Do you know what story is being told in this painting? (This is the Christian Bible story of the angel, Gabriel, telling Mary that she will become pregnant with God's son, who was named Jesus.)
- This fresco is on a wall at the top of a stairway and appears to be like a window looking out onto a garden. Angelico used the same architectural feature of the building where it is located. What architectural features do you see? (Corinthian columns, barrel vaulted ceilings, rectangular doors and square windows.)
- How did he create the illusion of space and three dimensional forms? (He used shadows in the ceiling and folds in the clothing, he overlapped shapes and attempted linear perspective.)
- What kind of person does Mary appear to be? How can you tell? (She appears humble, reverent, serious, and gentle by her posture, facial expression, colors used.)