Charles Goodnight was instrumental in the recovery of Cynthia Ann Parker, a white settler who had been captured by the Comanche as a young girl. After discovering a small Comanche encampment, he noticed an Indian woman with light hair and eyes. He later helped lead Texas Rangers back to recapture her. The problem is that Cynthia Ann didn’t want to go back to white society. She wanted to stay with the Comanche family she had lived with for 24 years. She was forced to return to her white family where some say she died of a broken heart.

Activity - These paintings were commissioned to showcase events that happened in Charles Goodnight’s life, so it’s easy to understand things from his point of view. What do you think Cynthia Ann Parker is thinking about at this moment? Are her thoughts and feelings similar or different from what Goodnight is experiencing? Explain.

Old Blue was Charles Goodnight’s lead steer for many cattle drives. The cowboys would lead Old Blue in a certain direction and the rest of the cattle would follow him. Old Blue became like a pet to the cowboys, and he lived out his older years on the JA Ranch.

Activity - This painting is titled Old Blue. Turn this two-word title into a one-sentence caption that expresses what is happening in this picture. Be sure to include an action verb and descriptive language.
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| **Giving Counsel** | In 1867, on their second *cattle drive*, Charles Goodnight’s partner, Oliver Loving, was anxious to ride ahead to Fort Sumner, New Mexico to secure the best price for the cattle. Goodnight knew the territory was dangerous and tried to talk Loving out of the trip. In the end, Loving and top cowhand “One-Armed” Bill Wilson rode ahead against Goodnight’s advice.  

Activity – *Jump into this painting in your imagination. Use descriptive language* to relate what’s happening.  
- Where did you land in the painting?  
- What do you see?  
- What do you hear?  
- What do you smell?  
- What do you feel on your skin?  
- What can you taste?  

How does “jumping” into this picture help you connect with what’s happening? |
| **A Promise Made, A Promise Kept** | As a result of his decision to ride ahead, Oliver Loving was wounded in an attack by a band of Comanche. He lived long enough for Charles Goodnight to get to his deathbed. Before he died, he asked Goodnight to return his body for burial in Texas – a request that Goodnight honored later that year.  

Activity – *Giving Counsel and A Promise Made, A Promise Kept* tell a story of the relationship between Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving. Explain the message the artist is trying to communicate about their friendship through the paintings. |
| **Quanah Parker** | While living on the JA Ranch, Goodnight and Comanche Chief Quanah Parker (son of Cynthia Ann Parker who Goodnight helped recover in 1860) formed a treaty stating that in exchange for two cows every other day to feed his people, Parker and his braves would stop raiding cattle from the JA Ranch.  

Activity – Quanah Parker and Charles Goodnight had different problems, and they worked together to find a solution. Explain other solutions they could have come up with. Do you think the solution they came up with was the best one? Explain. |
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| **A Good Idea Gone Bad** | To reestablish the nearly *extinct* southern bison herd, Charles Goodnight raised a bull calf who he named Old Sikes. Just like Goodnight himself, Old Sikes was a little rough around the edges and made his own way in the world. In 1886, Goodnight decided it was time for Old Sikes to live on the JA Ranch full-time. Old Sikes, however, had different ideas. In the painting, *A Good Idea Gone Bad*, you can see exactly how he felt about Goodnight’s attempt to herd him back to the ranch.  

**Activity** - Look at the painting carefully. What is the “good idea” and what has “gone bad”? Make a *prediction* about what happens next after the moment captured in this painting. |