



Art History

English Lessons



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10 Iconic Paintings by Watchmojo.com

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tStzWPK_n9U



Complete the table with information from the video (follow the paintings in the order they are ranked)

	Title of painting	Artist	Year	Description	Possible interpretation
10					
9					
8					
7					

	Title of painting	Artist	Year	Description	Possible interpretation
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					



TEACHER'S C1-C2


	TITLE OF PAINTING	ARTIST	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION
10	The kiss	Gustav Klimt	1908-9	A striking intimate image, a man and a woman locked in an embrace surrounded by luxurious colours and gold	The lines between luxury and decadence are blurred as are the barriers between love and lust
9	The persistence of memory	Salvador Dali	1931	Melting clocks on a desolate beach	Exploration of the cosmic order or Einstein's theory of relativity or the surrealist perception of a soft cheese melting beneath the sun's rays (Dali)
8	Girl with a pearl earring	Johannes Vermeer	1665	A portrait of a girl with a pearl earring. The earring is the picture's focal point. The girl's plain face is caught as though unprepared	Its provocative voyeurism has many viewers speculating on the subject's thoughts and her backstory

	TITLE OF PAINTING	ARTIST	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION
7	Olympia	Edouard Manet	1863	A naked woman lying on the bed looking at the viewer. On our right there is also a black woman with flowers and a black cat	Less innocent nude than its predecessors (Venus by Titian and Giorgione). The woman displays indicators of prostitution and a confrontational gaze that shocks the audience. She's a woman in control of herself
6	The birth of Venus	Sandro Botticelli	1486	A naked Venus emerges out of the sea standing on a large seashell. On our right a woman is covering her and on the left two figures of winds are blowing	The artist presents the beautiful goddess as an icon of neoplatonism, a movement attempting to connect Greek and Roman thought with Christianity. Venus is a concoction of classical influences that has made its way into modern culture on many occasions





	TITLE OF PAINTING	ARTIST	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION
5	The scream	Edvard Munch	1893	A ghostly figure on a bridge holding his/her head and screaming	It reflects the end of photorealistic technical efforts and the beginning of metaphoric emotional pieces. The pain, fear and horror that the figure feels are definitely felt. The subject looks trapped inside the painting and inside our world
4	Guernica	Pablo Picasso	1937	A grey, black and white abstract painting with many parts of creatures (animals and humans). It is a typically Picasso piece that shows devastation and destruction. It is intensely dramatic	The bombing of the Basque town Guernica and the ongoing Spanish Civil war inflicted by the emerging fascist powers of Germany and Italy. Some find Picasso's own ego in the disfigured creatures. Others note that the horse and bulls are important Spanish symbols while others see the rampaging rise of nazism

	TITLE OF PAINTING	ARTIST	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION
3	The last supper	Leonardo da Vinci	1495-98	Jesus and his disciples around the table. There is also a woman on his right. The artist captures the moment when Jesus tells his followers that one will betray him	It has inspired many conspiracy theories  www.ruthless teacher.com
2	The starry night	Vincent Van Gogh	1889	A landscape with swirling, circling clouds, moon and stars of the night sky over a village	An exaggerated but beautiful scene that the viewer can't help getting involved in
1	Mona Lisa	Leonardo da Vinci	1503-17	A small size portrait of a woman staring at the viewer with an enigmatic smile in front of a landscape	The subject of the painting is under debate. She is an object of extreme fascination because of her inescapable stare, her unreadable expression and her incredible detail



For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





The video was made by “Watchmojo.com”

You can check out their website here:

<https://www.watchmojo.com/>

and their Youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WatchMojo>

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For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

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