

Gulshan Senior School
English Language, Class IX

Worksheet 1
Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

“Strange Bedfellows!” lamented the title of a recent letter to Museum News, in which a certain Harriet Sherman excoriated the National Gallery of Art in Washington for its handling of tickets to the much-ballyhooed “Van Gogh’s van Goghs” exhibit. A huge proportion of the 200,000 free tickets were snatched up by homeless opportunists in the dead of winter, who then scalped those tickets at \$85 apiece to less hardy connoisseurs.

Yet, Sherman’s bedfellows are far from strange. Art, despite its religious and magical origins, very soon became a commercial venture. From bourgeois patrons funding art they barely understood in order to share their protegee’s prestige, to museum curators stage-managing the cult of artists in order to enhance the market value of museum holdings, entrepreneurs have found validation and profit in big-name art. Speculators, thieves, and promoters long ago created and fed a market where cultural icons could be traded like commodities.

This trend toward commodification of high-brow art took an ominous, if predictable, turn in the 1980s during the Japanese “bubble economy.” At a time when Japanese share prices more than doubled, individual tycoons and industrial giants alike invested record amounts in some of the West’s greatest masterpieces. Ryohei Saito, for example, purchased van Gogh’s Portrait of Dr. Gachet for a record-breaking \$82.5 million. The work, then on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, suddenly vanished from the public domain. Later learning that he owed the Japanese government \$24 million in taxes, Saito remarked that he would have the painting cremated with him to spare his heirs the inheritance tax. This statement, which he later dismissed as a joke, alarmed and enraged many. A representative of the Van Gogh museum, conceding that he had no legal redress, made an ethical appeal to Mr. Saito, asserting, “a work of art remains the possession of the world at large.”

Ethical appeals notwithstanding, great art will increasingly devolve into big business. Firstly, great art can only be certified by its market value. Moreover, the “world at large” hasn’t the means of

acquisition. Only one museum currently has the funding to contend for the best pieces—the J. Paul Getty Museum, founded by the billionaire oilman. The art may disappear into private hands, but its transfer will disseminate once static fortunes into the hands of various investors, collectors, and occasionally the artist.

1. What is the TOPIC (main idea) of this passage?
2. What is the SCOPE (specific focus) of this passage?
3. What is the PURPOSE of this passage? (What is the author trying to do with this passage? Describe/explain, argue, advocate, etc...)
4. What notes would you jot down on your notepad to paraphrase each paragraph?
5. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?
 - a. Art of Art's Sake: A Japanese Ideal
 - b. Van Gogh: Breaking New Ground
 - c. Museums and the Press: Strange Bedfellows
 - d. Money vs. Art: An Ethical Mismatch
 - e. Great Art: Business as Usual
6. It can be inferred from the passage that Harriet Sherman would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements regarding admission to museum exhibits?
 - a. Tickets should be available on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - b. Those with a genuine interest in art should not have to pay inflated prices.
 - c. Museums need the income from ticket sales in order to buy great art.
 - d. Tickets should be distributed without prior announcement.
 - e. No one should be able to purchase more than one or two tickets.
7. The passage supplies information for answering which of the following questions?
 - a. Who owned van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet prior to its purchase by Saito?
 - b. Where did Saito exhibit van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet?
 - c. Which museum proposed to purchase van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet from Saito?
 - d. Did the Van Gogh Museum threaten legal action in response to reports that Saito intended to destroy van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet?
 - e. Did Saito actually intend to destroy van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet?

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Worksheet 2
Grammar and Language

1. "Once upon a time, a little girl named Laura traveled in a covered wagon across the giant prairie." - Little House on the Prairie

In the quote above, which words represent a noun phrase?

- a. Once upon a time
 - b. a little girl named Laura
 - c. traveled in a covered wagon
 - d. across the giant prairie
2. Fill in the blanks in the passage below with the correct punctuation:
Jane ___ be still ___ don't struggle so like a wild ___ frantic bird ___ that is rending its own plumage in its desperation.
3. Do we have _____ milk at home?
- a. many
 - b. some
 - c. it
 - d. one
4. Which one of _____ dresses do you want?
- a. that
 - b. a
 - c. these
 - d. this
5. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- a. You'll need to turn left on Cedar it's the third house on the right.
 - b. You'll need to turn left on Cedar; it's the third house on the right.
 - c. You'll need to turn left on; Cedar it's the third house on the right.
 - d. You'll need to turn left on Cedar it's the; third house on the right.
6. Which sentence uses commas correctly?

- a. Will your dad drive us to the museum, or shall we take a bus?
 - b. Will your dad, drive us to the museum or, shall we take a bus?
 - c. Will your dad drive us to the museum or, shall we take a bus?
 - d. Will your dad, drive us to the museum, or shall we take a bus?
7. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- a. Recent sites of the Olympic Games include Athens, Greece Salt Lake City, Utah; Sydney, Australia; and Nagano, Japan.
 - b. Recent sites of the Olympic Games include Athens, Greece Salt Lake City, Utah Sydney, Australia; and Nagano, Japan.
 - c. Recent sites of the Olympic Games include Athens, Greece; Salt Lake City, Utah; Sydney, Australia; and Nagano, Japan.
 - d. Recent sites of the Olympic Games include Athens, Greece Salt Lake City, Utah Sydney, Australia and Nagano, Japan.
8. Which of the following is a run-on sentence?
- a. You can use soap to clean the kitchen counter, but bleach is better.
 - b. Hamburgers should be eaten well-done, because cooking kills bacteria.
 - c. It's important to store food properly and to keep preparation areas clean.
 - d. Bacteria in food can cause illness you should take care to store food properly.

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Worksheet 3
Directed Writing

Write a formal letter to your employer, asking for an increase in remuneration, due to your improved performances and prolificacy. You should use a separate page for this assignment and use a proper formal letter format.

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Worksheet 5
Creative Writing/Composition

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of Nuclear Power and present a verdict on its sustainable use in Bangladesh. You should write 350 words on this.

OR

Do a research on Spanish Flu of 1918 and write 350 words, narrating the progress and devastation of the epidemic. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu