

IDEAS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL / EXTENSION TO MATURITY EXAM PREP BOOKS (Focus: Advanced)

Topic

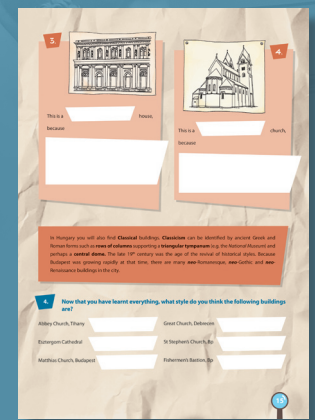
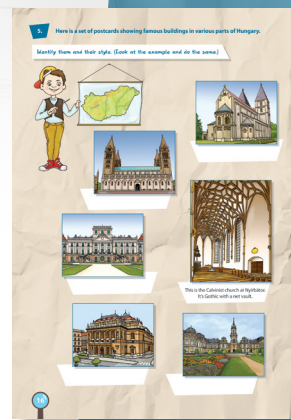
How to speak

about art



1 ARCHITECTURE

Tasks from a children's activity book



2 Modern buildings



Modern church building



Downtown Boston cityscape

2 SCULPTURE



Mobile sculpture



Egyptian couple, Emelt szintű p140



Michelangelo's David



Couple, modern art, Emelt szintű p140



The Milkmaid by Johannes Vermeer

Description:

With quiet concentration, a woman pours milk into a bowl. Around her are various objects such as a loaf of bread and stoneware, a jug, a basket and a brass bucket. The woman is standing near the window so she can see what she is doing. The light falls on her hands; her silhouette is dark against the white wall. There is a fascinating play of light and shadow in the painting. It is one of Johannes Vermeer's genre pieces in which he establishes an intensely intimate atmosphere. Although the artist observes his model from nearby, she continues with her work totally undisturbed.

The lighting in Vermeer's Milkmaid is extremely subtle. Light falls from the left through the window. Beneath and beside the window it is somewhat shadowy, but the woman is standing in full brightness. When you look carefully at the painting you see that Vermeer introduced tiny points of light all over the canvas: on the edges of the jug and the bowl, but also on the fastening of her yellow dress, and on the bread in the basket. Vermeer paid great attention to detail. He painted tiny rough patches into the texture of the white plasterwork. Also, he gave careful thought to a nail set high in the white wall, as well as to the light entering through a cracked window pane. The structure of the various objects is expertly rendered; fine examples are the gleaming brass and the crumbly bread.

Simplicity:

Clearly, this woman is a servant and no grand lady. Her dress is simple. She wears green oversleeves which partly protect her yellow bodice. On her head she wears a starched cap. She looks strong and sturdy. The artist achieves this effect by painting her from a low viewpoint. This lends a certain weight and dignity to this simple and everyday subject - a woman at work.

Space and focal point:

Vermeer carefully organises the space around the maid. The composition is built up along two diagonal lines. They meet by the woman's right wrist. With this trick of composition, Vermeer focuses the viewer's attention on the act of pouring out the milk.



Gainsborough Mr and Mrs Andrews
70.5 x 119.5 cm, oil on canvas

Painted about 1752, this picture is among the best-known of all British paintings. The view of the cornfield, the distant fields and the cloudy sky is for most people the epitome of Englishness, and Mr Andrews is an English farmer (belonging to the minor gentry) who is proud of his well-harvested corn, neatly kept fences and well cared for sheep. The fresh, honest look of the couple matches the freshness of the landscape around them, which is lovingly painted with Dutch attention to natural detail and a moist northern light.



Abstract picture



Surrealist picture

(Possible extension: "What is Englishness?" – open discussion)

REM: possible task-type for practice: comparing ...

- various architectural styles;
- the Egyptian and the modern couple;
- the portrayal of humans: Egyptian couple – David – modern couple;
- Vermeer and Gainsborough;
- the abstract and the surrealist picture.

LINKING TOPIC TO MATURITY EXAM BOOK TASKS

a) Advanced level:

<Comparing various architectural styles> (Felmérő feladatsor, Oral Task 3, összefüggő önálló témakifejtés)
<On some famous sights in India> (Listening Task 3A, multiple choice)
<Comparing two sculptures (Egyptian & modern) (Oral Task 3F)

b) Intermediate level:

Giving David a Bath (Reading Task 7A, Q & A)]