

TY Cultural Visit 2: National Gallery of Ireland

Your Task - How to look at a painting:

Look around the gallery. Choose the painting that most appeals to you. Try and find as much information about it as you can. Try to make a sketch of it while you are there. Use colour. Show the full composition, rather than a fragment of it.

Write an essay on your chosen painting under the following headings:

Introduction: The Artist.

Background information on the artist.

Where were they from?

Who was their teacher?

Give their dates.

What were their most well-known works?

Who was their patron? Who paid for the work?

What era did they belong to?

Introduction: The Painting

State the theme or idea. For example religion, love, family, work, war...

How long did it take to paint it?

The function. Why was it painted?

The location. Where was it painted for?

The subject matter. What is it about? Write one line.

Content

Describe **everything** in the painting.

If there are people. Who are they?

What are they wearing?

What are they doing?

Where is the setting?

What can you tell anything about their status?

Is there anything else? Buildings? Animals? A landscape? The sea?

Composition:

Write a paragraph about what is in the foreground? (The very front of the painting), the middle ground? The background?

Artistic Devices: Tricks the artist uses to make the picture look real.

Depth or Perspective: How does the artist create a sense of depth/distance in the picture?

Mathematical Perspective (measured using a grid) or Aerial Perspective (colours and tones fade in the background).

Foreshortening: Also creates a sense of depth. An object is made to look as if it is projecting out of the picture towards the viewer.

Scale: The size of objects in relation to each other. Is it accurate/realistic?

Proportion: The size of parts of an individual object/person or figure in relation to the whole for example the size of the head in relation to the whole body.

Art Elements:

Discuss the way the artist has used: Colour, Line, Shape, Texture, Tone, Form, and Pattern.

Conclusion:

Always write a conclusion to an essay. Summarise your main points. Say if you like the painting.

To be completed by and returned by Tuesday 18th May 2021