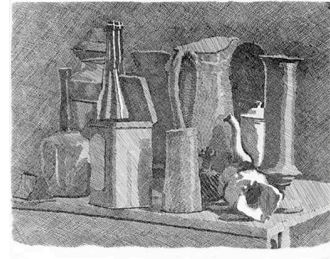


Expressive Questions – Still Life

Use these questions to help build your essay, but make sure you think up your own

You get most marks for having a personal opinion and backing it up with evidence from the painting or from books



- 1) What objects can you see in the picture?
- 2) How have the objects been arranged?
 - What kind of background has been painted?
 - What have the objects been placed on?
 - Is there a table? Tablecloth? Fabric?
- 3) What kind of person is in the portrait?
 - What clues do you have in the painting to help you decide this?
- 4) Start to describe in detail what you see in the picture.
 - What is in the front, middle and back of the picture (i.e. foreground, middleground and background)
 - Does any part attract your attention? Why?
 - How has the artist captured your attention?
 - What leads your eye in?
 - Try to spot how objects, lines and colours make you look at certain parts of the still life
- 5) How has it been painted? Oil paint? Chalk? Pencil? Watercolour? Acrylic?
- 6) What type of brushstrokes or marks have been used?
 - Are they smooth, scratchy, jagged, short, long, dotted, rough etc.?
- 7) Is there any sense of depth or perspective in the picture, or does it appear flat?

8) What mood do you think the painting gives?

- 🗣️ How does the picture make you feel?
- 🗣️ How do you think it's meant to make you feel? [If it was painted a long time ago, maybe you feel differently about things than they did]
- 🗣️ *Try and imagine what it would be like to live in a house that has this still life in it.*

9) How has the artists used line?

10) How has the artist shown light and dark tones?

11) How have they used colour?

- 🗣️ Is there an obvious colour scheme? Hot? Cold? Contrasting?
- 🗣️ What are the main colours used?
 - 🗣️ How has the artist used contrasting colours?
 - 🗣️ How have they used harmonious colours?
 - 🗣️ *[Use the colour wheel in the classroom to help you decide.]*
 - 🗣️ How warm or cold are the colours? Why?

12) Do you think this still life is realistic? Do the objects look real? Could you touch them?

13) How do you think the artist has altered how the objects look?

- 🗣️ How have they distorted the image?
- 🗣️ How have they improved upon things?
 - 🗣️ *Have they made them look prettier, uglier, more impressive and/or more important looking?*

14) When was the still life painted?

- 🗣️ Find out information about the style of the painting or if there is an artistic movement/group that the painter belonged to.

15) What purpose does the painting have?

- Why did the painter paint it?
- Did someone pay the artist to paint it? Why?
- Is there a hidden meaning?
- Are the objects meant to symbolize something?

16) Find other portraits by the artist and see if they have painted them differently.

- Why might they have done this? What are they trying to say?

17) What do you think, or feel about the picture?

18) Why do you like it or dislike it?

19) How successful is the picture? Why do you think this?

20) How does it attract your attention?

21) How could the artist have changed the picture to improve it or make it different?

Next pick a second still life.

Go through the questions again.

Finally **compare and contrast the two still lifes.**

You might want to use writing frames to help you.

This is where you get a lot of marks -

- Think hard about both paintings, then use the questions you have already answered to help you decide where the paintings are similar and where they are different.**
- Decide which you think is more successful and explain why.**