INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MONTERREY

Reading Comprehension

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ Trim. #: ___ LIST #: ___ - ___

9.6.3 DRESSED TO EXCESS

If you traveled back in time to the 1700s in Europe, you would laugh when you saw how the ***aristocracy*** dressed. Soon you'd realize, though, that the ***aristocrats*** of Europe were very serious about their appearance.

The ***predominant*** style in women's ***attire*** was enormous dresses. They were often three times larger than the wearer. Ladies even used ***pads*** to ***enlarge*** the appearance of their hips and shoulders. On the other extreme, the aristocratic women made their waists appear extremely thin. It took several maids stretching fabric and pulling ***straps*** in order to get a lady's waist to the proper thinness. These ladies could barely breathe and often fainted.

Pale skin was also a ***craze***, yet this too was done in ***excess***. One could not simply be pale. Instead, she needed to look as if she had ***anemia***. In order to look paler, ladies actually cut themselves daily, so they would bleed.

The hairstyles, however, were the ***hallmark*** of women's fashion. These stood a meter high on the ladies' heads. The columns of hair were a ridiculous ***tangle*** of wigs, jewels, flowers, and even stuffed birds.

Men's fashion was similarly ***absurd***. Today it would probably seem very ***feminine***. ***Reputable*** men wore wigs of long curly hair. Their shoes had large soles or high heels so that they could walk high above the filth on the streets. Furthermore, just like the ladies, the men wore lipstick and put ***rouge*** on their cheeks.

Their clothes were brightly colored, often purple and pink. They were made from the finest of fabrics and decorated with jewels and lace. The men ***vied*** with one another to see who wore the more expensive clothes, for the clothing ***signified*** his wealth and status.

Both men and women spent huge amounts of money and time on how they looked. Though such ***vanity*** would seem ***vulgar*** today, three hundred years from now, the fashions of our time might also seem completely ridiculous.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part A: Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

_____ 1. Ladies used pads to enlarge their hips and shoulders.

_____

_____ 2. Only the ladies wore lipstick and rouge.

_____

_____ 3. The aristocracy's vanity would seem vulgar today.

_____

_____ 4. Women's hair was a tangle of wigs, straps, flowers, and stuffed birds.

_____

_____ 5. Men's fashion was absurd and feminine.

_____

Part B: Answer the questions.

1. What was the predominant style in women's attire?

2. What did the clothing of an aristocrat signify?

3. What craze was done in such excess that women had to look like they had anemia?

4. What was the hallmark of women's fashion?

5. When reputable men vied with each other, what were they trying to see?

LIVEWORKSHEETS