READING

9 Read the text. Then answer the questions writing full sentences.

1 What period of painting does the writer like?

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2 What's the name of the woman in the *Mona Lisa*?

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3 When did Leonardo da Vinci paint the *Mona Lisa*?

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4 Who was the first person to buy the painting?

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5 How long has the painting been in the Louvre museum?

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_____

6 What happened in 1911?

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_____

7 Who discovered that the painting was missing?

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_____

8 Where did the painting turn up again?

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_____

9 What was Vincenzo Perugia trying to do?

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_____

10 How many people see the painting every year?

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_____

/10

I'm very keen on art, especially paintings from the Renaissance period. My favourite painting is Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. It's probably the most famous painting in the world. It's a portrait of a lady but her name and identity are unknown. She has an unusual expression on her face. I like the fact that you can't tell if she is smiling or not. I can't helping wondering what's she thinking and if she is sad or happy.

I'm also interested in the history behind the painting. Leonardo da Vinci painted it in the early sixteenth century. Then, in 1516, he took it to France and sold it to King Francis I for 4,000 gold coins. It remained in the possession of the French royal family until after the French Revolution. In the 1800s, the Louvre museum in Paris obtained the painting and it has been there ever since. However, in 1911, somebody actually succeeded in stealing the painting from the museum. At first, no one noticed that the painting was missing, until a regular visitor called Louis Béroud, a painter, noticed that it wasn't there. The museum staff thought that the official museum photographer was taking pictures of the painting in his studio. After a few days, they realised he didn't have it! The police questioned many people, including the artist Pablo Picasso, but they couldn't find it.

More than two years later, the painting appeared in Florence in Italy, when an Italian, Vincenzo Perugia, tried to sell it to the Uffizi gallery for $100,000. The police arrested him and Perugia confessed that he stole the painting because of patriotism. He thought that such a famous painting by a famous Italian painter belonged in Italy, not France.

Today the painting is seen by about eight million people every year! It is still one of the most iconic and famous paintings in the world. It is loved by ordinary people and art lovers everywhere, including me!

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LIVEWORKSHEETS