# Johannes Vermeer

Vocabulary and listening worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

## 1 Learn the words

Read the meanings. These words will help you understand the text.

**a painter** a person who makes pictures using paint.

**to paint** to make a picture using paint and a brush.

**to draw** to make a picture with a pencil or pen.

**to describe** to say or write what someone or something is like.

**be good at** to be able to do something well.

**to pour** to make a liquid move from one container to another.

**a servant** a person paid to cook or clean in someone's home.

**a painting** a picture made with paint.

**a pearl** a small, round, usually white object from inside a sea animal, used in jewellery.

**an earring** a piece of jewellery you wear on your ear.

**a reason** something that explains why something happens.

**imaginary** not real; made up in someone's mind.

**to be inspired by** to get an idea from someone or something.

**to admire** to like someone or something and think they are very good.

**slowly** not quickly; taking a long time.

**enormous** very big or very large.

**to know** to have information about something.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 2 Listen and fill in the gaps

Listen to the recording and fill in the gaps with the words you hear.

Type your answers in the blank spaces. The spaces will grow as you type.

Johannes Vermeer was a seventeenth-century (1) _____ from the city of Delft in Holland. He mainly (2) _____ the people and things he saw around him: the rooms in his house, the people who lived or worked there (usually women), and the things they did every day.

For example, in his work you will see women who are playing music, reading or writing letters, or working in the kitchen. Vermeer (3) _____ especially (4) _____ painting light coming into a room through windows. Partly for this reason, people often (5) _____ his work as being like photography or film – his paintings can seem very 'real'.

This (6) _____, The Milkmaid, is one of these very 'photographic' images. The woman, a maid or a servant, is pouring milk into a bowl. Perhaps she's making a bread and milk pudding, because there are pieces of broken bread on the table.

Nobody (7) _____ if the woman he painted was a real servant or a model. However, most people think Vermeer usually painted his wife, his daughter, and his (8) _____, not models. A famous book and film, called Girl with a (9) _____ Earring, (10) _____ by one of his best-known paintings, is an (11) _____ story about Vermeer and his relationship with his young servant.

People (12) _____ Vermeer's paintings a lot in his lifetime, but he was never rich. There are two (13) _____ for this. First, because he painted very (14) _____. Today there are only about thirty-four paintings which we can be sure are by him. Second, because he used very expensive paints. The blue paint he used for the milkmaid's apron was made of lapis lazuli, which was a very expensive stone.

People loved this painting from the very beginning, and although it is very small, only forty-six by forty-one centimetres, twenty years after Vermeer died, somebody bought the painting for a hundred and seventy-five Dutch guilders. That was an (15) _____ amount of money for the time.

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