MONA LISA ATTACK

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions.*

1. What pieces of art are world famous? Do you like or dislike them? Why?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description.*

1. House	**a) to pretend to be**
2. Draw	**b) a painting or drawing of a person**
3. Pose as	**c) relating to mental health**
4. Enigmatic	**d) to keep**
5. Portrait	**e) judging something**
6. Tempting	**f) to attract, to pull in**
7. Attempted	**g) something that people want to have or do**
8. Vandalism	**h) damaging other people's property**
9. Psychiatric	**i) mysterious, hard to understand**
10. Evaluation	**j) something somebody tried to do without success**

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text.*

One of the most famous artworks in the_____, the Mona Lisa, was recently attacked. Housed in the Louvre in Paris, the painting of a barely smiling woman draws thousands of visitors per day. One of those visitors, a man posing as an old_____in a wheelchair, got close to the painting, stood up, and tried to rub a cake into it.

It is not the first time that the painting has been attacked. Over the years, acid, a rock, red paint, and a coffee cup have all been_____at the piece of art. However, since 1956, none of the attacks have damaged the picture, thanks to protective bulletproof glass.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Why is the enigmatic_____by Leonardo da Vinci such a popular target? The fame that brings in visitors also makes the painting a tempting target for protest. People know that they can get_____by attacking such a well-known work of art.

In this recent case of attempted vandalism, based on his post-attack comments, the attacker seemed to be protesting environmental damage to our planet. He was_____away by police for psychiatric evaluation.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
house		x	
draw		x	
x	enigmatic		
	x	x	portrait
	tempting		
	attempted	x	
		x	vandalism
		x	evaluation

One of the most famous artworks in the world, the Mona Lisa, was recently attacked. Housed in the Louvre in Paris, the painting of a barely smiling woman draws thousands of visitors per day. One of those visitors, a man posing as an old woman in a wheelchair, got close to the painting, stood up, and tried to rub a cake into it.

It is not the first time that the painting has been attacked. Over the years, acid, a rock, red paint, and a coffee cup have all been thrown at the piece of art. However, since 1956, none of the attacks have damaged the picture, thanks to protective bulletproof glass.

Why is the enigmatic portrait by Leonardo da Vinci such a popular target? The fame that brings in visitors also makes the painting a tempting target for protest. People know that they can get attention by attacking such a well-known work of art.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

In this recent case of attempted vandalism, based on his post-attack comments, the attacker seemed to be protesting environmental damage to our planet. He was taken away by police for psychiatric evaluation.

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss.*

1. The Mona Lisa is kept in the Louvre. (T / F)
2. A woman, dressed as a man, attacked the Mona Lisa. (T / F)
3. The Mona Lisa is frequently damaged. (T / F)
4. The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. has / mysterious / smile / mona lisa / the / a

_____

2. man / the / worried / environment / is / the / about

_____

DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions. Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. How easy is it for you to smile for a photograph? What is your smile like?
2. Have you been to Paris? If so, what did you see and do there? If not, are you interested in going to Paris? For what?
3. Do you like the Mona Lisa? Why is it or is it not a good painting, in your opinion?
4. Why else is Leonardo da Vinci famous?
5. Do you like to go to galleries and museums? Why or why not?
6. Have you tried painting? Was it enjoyable? How skillful are you?
7. Is there a lot of vandalism in your city or town? Why do people damage other people's property?
8. What are the pros and cons of this form of protest?
9. What issues should people be protesting about these days?
10. What could be thrown at the Mona Lisa that has not already been thrown?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WRITING: *Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.*

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-d, 2-f, 3-a, 4-i, 5-b, 6-g, 7-j, 8-h, 9-c, 10-e

WORD FORMS: housed, house, drawing, draw, enigmatically, enigma, portray, tempt, temptingly, temptation, attempt, attempt, vandalize, vandalized, evaluate, evaluated

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T

COMPLETE: 1. The Mona Lisa has a mysterious smile. 2. The man is worried about the environment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS