5 Describing Style

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 How can we describe a painting with lots of images or shapes in it?

2 What kind of design features repeated shapes or images?

The Critical Eye

With Art Critic *Danielle Donicelli*

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Renowned artist Liam Beckett has two new paintings at the Fifth Street Gallery.

The first piece is called "A Morning Pond." In the painting, the water's surface is covered with a **pattern** of leaves. It features soft, **smooth** brushstrokes and a very light **texture**. The colors **flow** gently, just like the ripples in the water.

The other painting is called "Darkness." Unlike the first piece, this one is different from Beckett's usual **style**. It features **uneven** splashes of paint and **jagged** edges. It also lacks his usual sense of **balance**. Some areas are **cluttered** with too many colors and shapes. Meanwhile, other areas are completely **empty**.

Reading

2 Read the review. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is the main idea of the article?

- A Techniques for painting different textures.
- B Using patterns effectively in paintings.
- C Descriptions of two paintings.
- D How to achieve the proper balance in paintings.

2 What can you infer about the painter?

- A His paintings are usually similar to "A Morning Pond."
- B He does not have a sense of balance.
- C His previous paintings have not been displayed.
- D He typically paints with uneven splashes of paint.

3 What is a feature of the painting "A Morning Pond"?

- A uneven texture
- B jagged edges
- C smooth brushstrokes
- D empty areas

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).

1 __ flow
2 __ empty
3 __ texture
4 __ pattern
5 __ jagged
6 __ smooth
7 __ balance

A a design with a repeated image
B the quality of a surface
C to move steadily and evenly
D containing nothing
E the state of being even
F having an uneven surface with sharp points
G having an even surface that is not rough

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

1 The artists style is **cluttered/empty** with too many colors and objects.
2 Both artists are popular, even though they have different **textures/styles**.
3 The bumps on the surface make the painting **uneven/smooth**.

5 Listen and read the review again. How is the painting "Darkness" different from Beckett's usual style?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two art gallery visitors. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ The woman and the man prefer different painting styles.
2 __ The woman likes this painting more than the other paintings.
3 __ The man likes lines that are more jagged.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Visitor 1: Hey, Norman. What do you think of this painting? It's called "Darkness."
Visitor 2: I don't really like it. It seems out of **1** _____.
Visitor 1: You think so? I think it's a lot **2** _____ _____ than the other paintings.
Visitor 2: Interesting? **3** _____ _____ _____ ugly.
Visitor 1: Don't you think the empty spaces work well with the **4** _____ _____?
Visitor 2: No, the lines are **5** _____ _____ for my taste. I prefer brushwork that seems to flow.
Visitor 1: Oh, I see. That's okay. Not everybody appreciates **6** _____ _____.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

What do you think of ...? / I call it ... / I prefer ...

Student A: You are an art gallery visitor. Talk to Student B about:
- a painting
- the style of the painting
- your opinion of the painting

Student B: You are an art gallery visitor. Talk to Student A about the style of a painting.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the gallery feedback form.

Fifth Street Gallery

Please tell us what you think of our art!

Title and Artist: _____

Did you like this piece? Y / N

Please describe the features you liked or disliked:

_____

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS