Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy is by the British artist David Hockney, and it's considered to be one of the greatest British paintings of the 20th century. It was painted in 1971 and it's a portrait of two of his friends, Ozzie Clark and his wife Celia, and their cat Percy. Ozzie Clark and Celia were fashion designers and they had a very successful clothes shop in London. In the 1960s they dressed a lot of the famous pop stars of the time, including The Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton. Hockney painted Ozzie and Celia a few months after they got married in their flat at Notting Hill in London. He painted them in their bedroom, because he liked the light there, and on the wall on the left of the window you can see one of his own paintings.

Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy is a very big painting, approximately 3 metres wide and 2 metres high. The couple are wearing typical clothes of the late 1960s. Celia is wearing a long dress, and in fact she was expecting a baby at that time. Her husband isn't wearing any shoes, and he's putting his feet into the carpet. This was because Hockney had a lot of problems painting his feet. He just couldn't get them right.

Hockney said that his aim with this painting was to paint the relationship between the two people. Traditionally, when a painter paints a married couple the woman is sitting down and the man is standing up. In this painting, the man is sitting and the woman is standing. Usually, in a painting the married couple are close together, but in this painting they are separated by a big open window which symbolizes the distance between them. The white cat, sitting on Mr Clark, is a symbol of infidelity. It seems that Hockney didn't think that their marriage was going to be very happy, and in fact, the couple got divorced four years later.

Celia often posed as a model for Hockney, but she says that this painting, his most famous picture of her, is not her favourite. She said "It's a wonderful painting, but it makes me look too heavy." In 1996, twenty five years after this picture was painted, Ozzie Clark died. He was murdered by his lover in his Kensington flat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Mark the sentence T(true) or F (false)

1. Percy is the name of the cat.
2. Mr and Mrs Clark dressed many famous people.
3. The painting shows their living room.
4. The painting is quite small.
5. Celia is pregnant in the painting.
6. Ozzie is putting his feet into the carpet because he is cold.
7. The position of the couple in the painting is unusual.
8. The open window is a symbol of the love between them.
9. The cat is a symbol of infidelity.
10. Celia and Ozzie later got divorced.
11. Celia doesn't like the painting.
12. Ozzie Clark died in 1995.

LIVEWORKSHEETS