

# 46 A painting



The painting *Bathers at Asnières* by Georges Seurat shows a typical scene of nineteenth-century leisure and the developing industry in this suburb of Paris. In the foreground, we see a group of workmen on their day off, having an enjoyable afternoon on the bank of the river. In the distance, you can just see the factory where they probably work. Everyone is looking out at the river and ignoring each other, even the little dog. We can sense the heat of the summer's day: the bright sunshine, bright colours and pale sky, and the general impression is one of almost silent and peaceful relaxation.

*Bathers* was painted in the 1880s, but up to then, most paintings were either historical and religious, or portraits of famous ladies and gentlemen. Ordinary people were not shown in art, so this painting was very original and quite shocking. It was painted outside, not in a studio, which was also unusual at that time.

## GLOSSARY

<b>scene</b>	a picture of a place and the things that are happening there	<b>ignore</b>	pay no attention to sb/sth
<b>leisure</b>	the time when you do not have to work	<b>sense</b>	get a feeling about sth that you can't directly see or hear
<b>industry</b>	the production of goods in factories <b>industrial</b> <i>adj</i>	<b>heat</b> [U, sing]	the feeling of sth hot <b>OPP cold</b>
<b>foreground</b>	the part of a picture that seems nearest to you <b>OPP background: in the foreground/background</b>	<b>bright</b>	having a lot of light <b>OPP dark; brightness</b> <i>n</i>
<b>off</b>	not at work or school: <b>have a day/week/month off</b>	<b>impression</b>	feelings or thoughts that you have about sth/sb
<b>bank</b>	the land along the side of a river	<b>silent</b>	with nobody speaking
<b>in the distance</b>	far away from you	<b>peaceful</b>	quiet and calm <b>peace</b> <i>n</i>
<b>just</b>	If you can <b>just</b> see sth, you can only see it with difficulty.	<b>relaxation</b>	time spent resting and being calm <b>relaxing</b> <i>adj</i>
		<b>ordinary</b>	not special or unusual <b>ALSO normal</b>
		<b>shocking</b>	making you feel upset, angry or surprised in a very bad way
		<b>studio</b>	a room in which an artist, photographer, etc. works

## SPOTLIGHT *lady and gentleman*

**Lady** is a polite way of saying 'woman'; **gentleman** is a polite way of saying 'man'. It is more polite to say 'an old lady/gentleman' than to say 'an old woman/man'.

**Lady** and **gentleman** also describe a man or woman who is polite, well-educated and kind:

▪ *She's a real lady. He's a perfect gentleman.*

You may also see **ladies** and **gents** on the doors of public toilets.



**1 Look at the underlined sounds. Cross out the word in each group which is different.**

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ▶ dark / <u>shocking</u> / <u>peace</u> | 4 brightness / impression / peaceful |
| 1 just / ignore / gentleman             | 5 peaceful / sense / scene           |
| 2 scene / sense / leisure               | 6 shocking / ordinary / ignore       |
| 3 relaxation / lady / relaxing          | 7 industry / industrial / distance   |

**2 Look at the picture on page 98. Write your answers.**

- ▶ Where are the industrial buildings? In the distance.
- 1 How many people are there in the foreground? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Where are the boats? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Where are the men sitting? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Are they ignoring each other? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Are the colours dark or bright? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Is the scene busy or peaceful? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Are the people ordinary or famous? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Can you see any ladies? \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Cover the glossary on page 98. Complete the definitions.**

- ▶ ordinary = not special or unusual
- 1 leisure = time when you don't have to \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 sense = have a \_\_\_\_\_ about sth that you can't see or hear
- 3 a morning off = a morning when you \_\_\_\_\_ have to go to work or school
- 4 scene = a \_\_\_\_\_ of a place and the things that are happening there
- 5 brightness = the fact of having a lot of \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 industry = the production of goods made in \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 studio = a room or rooms where an \_\_\_\_\_ works
- 8 silent = with \_\_\_\_\_ talking

**4 Complete the sentences with one word from each pair.**

peaceful / peace	impression / scene	bright ✓ / brightness	just / even	heat / brightness
industry / industrial	lady / gentleman	shocking / relaxing	background / foreground	

- ▶ The painter Whistler often uses dark colours, not bright ones.
- 1 LS Lowry painted many \_\_\_\_\_ scenes of factories and factory workers.
- 2 The people in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the painting must be about five kilometres away.
- 3 It was dark, but we could still feel the \_\_\_\_\_ – it was 30 degrees at midnight.
- 4 I need some \_\_\_\_\_ and quiet to finish this book – please don't interrupt me.
- 5 In the picture it's foggy, but you can \_\_\_\_\_ see the animals in the field.
- 6 The painting tries to create the \_\_\_\_\_ of light and heat.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ asked me where the Picasso room was. I told him it was upstairs.
- 8 It's \_\_\_\_\_ that so many people don't have a home and sleep on the streets.

**5 Complete the text.**

This painting by an Italian artist shows a ▶ scene of happiness and (1) p \_\_\_\_\_. There is a mother playing with her small daughter in the (2) f \_\_\_\_\_, and in the (3) b \_\_\_\_\_, an older woman is watching them. Behind her, and a long way in the (4) d \_\_\_\_\_, you can (5) j \_\_\_\_\_ see an old house, perhaps where they all live. It's obviously a warm day, and they are playing in the sunshine. On the right of the painting, there is a man who is (6) i \_\_\_\_\_ the mother and daughter; he seems much more interested in the dog in front of him. They are an (7) o \_\_\_\_\_ working family, and he's probably looking forward to some (8) r \_\_\_\_\_ during his day (9) o \_\_\_\_\_.

**6 ABOUT YOU Think about a painting you know and like. Write your answers, or ask another student.**

- 1 Who painted it, and do you know when? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What does it show? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What do you like about it? \_\_\_\_\_



TEST YOURSELF