THIEVES THOUGHT BRUEGEL WAS RUBBISH

Read the text and write in the correct word.

Many stolen paintings have a strange history. But (1) _____ of the strangest was that of a painting by the famous sixteenth-century painter Bruegel, stolen from the Courtauld Institute in London in the Eighties. It had fallen (2) _____ the hands of four thieves in London, (3) _____ were trying to (4)_____ a quick profit. Until they showed the painting to an art expert, (5)_____, they had no idea how much it was worth. One of (6) _____ said: "We've got this old chap to come in and (7)_____ a look at the painting. He was talking about something, then turned (8)_____, saw the painting and fainted. So I thought it was probably valuable."

"Two months later, the gang telephoned (9)_____ art expert. This expert told them that the painting was worth £2-3 million. They immediately hung up. They then tried to sell the painting back to the gallery from (10)_____ it had been stolen. The gallery contacted the police and a meeting (11)_____ arranged. The gang asked (12)_____ the money to be brought in two suitcases in unmarked banknotes. (13)_____ the meeting did in fact take place, the deal fell through and no money changed hands.

A short (14)_____ later the four were arrested. The police found the painting on (15)_____ of a wardrobe. When the gang were told they were (16)_____ arrested in connect with the Brugel, one of them said: "What's a Bruegel? I thought it was rubbish".

LIVEWORKSHEETS