



Art History

English Lessons

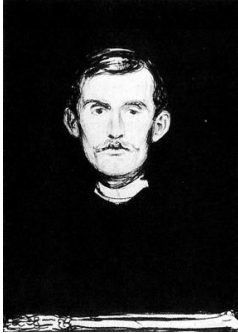


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Edward Munch

Edvard Munch, the master of Expressionism



Edvard Munch, born on December 12, 1863, in Loten, Norway, was a significant figure in the art movement known as Expressionism. Munch's work is renowned for its emotional depth and psychological intensity, capturing the complexities of human experience. He is best known for his iconic painting *The Scream* (1893), which has become a symbol of modern existential angst (anxiety, dread).

His life was marked by personal tragedy, including the early deaths of his mother and father. These experiences deeply influenced his work, leading him to explore themes of fear, anxiety, and despair. His paintings often reflect a troubled inner world, expressed through bold colors, distorted forms, and dramatic compositions.

In *The Scream*, Munch portrays a figure standing on a bridge, seemingly overwhelmed by a sense of terror and despair. The swirling sky and intense colors contribute to the painting's dramatic effect, creating a powerful visual representation of emotional turmoil. This work is considered one of the most recognizable and influential images in modern art.

Munch used various techniques to convey his themes. His use of vivid, often unnatural colors and expressive brushstrokes helped to communicate feelings rather than just visual reality. He was also influenced by Symbolism, which sought to express ideas and emotions through symbolic imagery rather than realistic depiction.

Throughout his career, Munch created several versions of *The Scream*, each with slight variations in color and form. This repetition allowed him to explore and refine his portrayal of existential dread and human anxiety. Besides *The Scream*, his notable works include *The Madonna* and *The Dance of Life*, which similarly explore themes of love, death, and human vulnerability.

Edvard Munch's work has had a lasting impact on the development of modern art. His innovative approach to portraying psychological states and emotional experiences paved the way for later movements, including Expressionism and Surrealism. Munch passed away on January 23, 1944, but his art continues to resonate with audiences around the world.



After carefully reading the text, decide if the sentences are True or False:

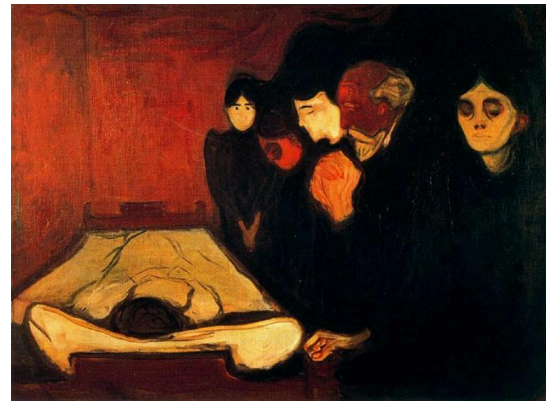
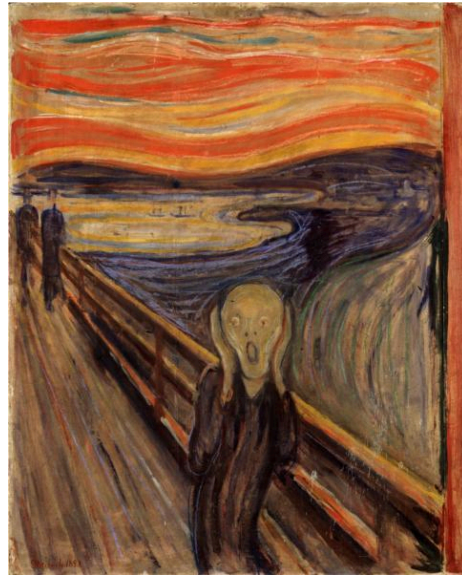
1. Edvard Munch was born in Loten, Norway.
2. Munch is known for his involvement in the art movement called Impressionism.
3. The painting *The Scream* was created in 1893.



4. Munch's work often explores themes of joy and happiness.
5. In *The Scream*, Munch depicts a figure standing on a bridge with a sense of terror.
6. Munch used dull and muted colors to express emotions in his paintings.
7. Munch created several versions of *The Scream*, each with different colors and forms.
8. *The Madonna* is one of Edvard Munch's notable works that explores themes of love and death.
9. Edvard Munch's art had no significant impact on modern art movements.



These are three of the most famous paintings by Munch. How do you feel about them? Taking into consideration what you learnt from the text about his life and art, express your ideas and feelings in a paragraph:



The second painting is called “The Scream” and it is one of the most famous paintings in the world. If you want to learn more about it, you can read these two articles from the BBC:

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20160303-what-is-the-meaning-of-the-scream>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-56127530?fbclid=IwAR0ShuR7qY31cv7OgZKTWjK6syQCfMh2HXQTrBHxeZzqkN6E--gd0p3UuR0>



Munch Teacher's Answers B2

Decide if the sentences are True or False:

1. Edvard Munch was born in Loten, Norway. True
2. Munch is known for his involvement in the art movement called Impressionism. False
3. The painting *The Scream* was created in 1893. True
4. Munch's work often explores themes of joy and happiness. False
5. In *The Scream*, Munch depicts a figure standing on a bridge with a sense of terror. True
6. Munch used dull and muted colors to express emotions in his paintings. False
7. Munch created several versions of *The Scream*, each with different colors and forms. True
8. *The Madonna* is one of Edvard Munch's notable works that explores themes of love and death. True
9. Edvard Munch's art had no significant impact on modern art movements. False



For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





Painter

A Norwegian born expressionist painter, [Edvard Munch](#) lived a tumultuous life, which was represented in his paintings. (information from Wikiart).

You can see his work online here:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/edvard-munch/all-works#!#filterName:all-paintings-chronologically,resultType:masonry>

Paintings

The painting inside the text is called “Self portrait with a skeleton’s arm” (1895) and you can see it in the *Munch Museum* in Oslo

<https://www.munchmuseet.no/en/edvard-munch/who-was-edvard-munch2/>

The first painting is called “The sick child” (1885-6) and you can see it in the *National Gallery* in Oslo

<https://www.nasjonalmuseet.no/en/collection/object/NG.M.00839>

The second painting is called “The Scream” (1893) and you can see it in the the *National Gallery* in Oslo

<https://www.nasjonalmuseet.no/en/stories/explore-the-collection/edvard-munch-and-the-scream-in-the-national-museum/>

The third painting is called “By the deathbed” (1893) and you can see it in the *Munch Museum* in Oslo

<https://www.edvardmunch.org/by-the-death-bed.jsp>



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For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

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