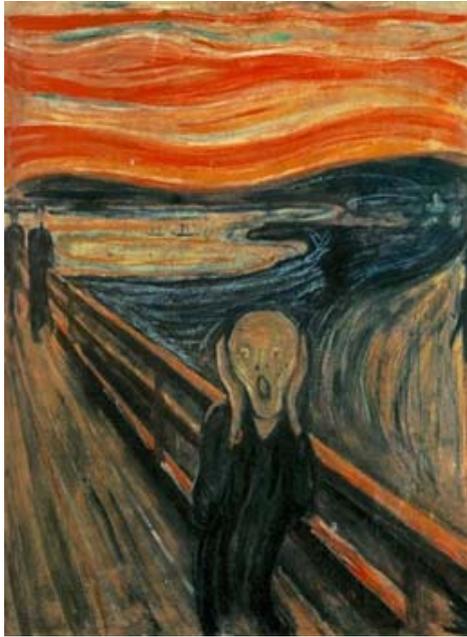


Forms of Art Symbolism



Edvard Munch's painting called *The Scream* shows us how frustrated the artist is on the inside. This painting is a prime example of Symbolism.

During the late 1800s, the Symbolist movement started with French writers in response to the rigid structure of writing. They were also responding to society's age of reason and value of material things. The movement spread throughout Europe and even North America. It influenced the visual arts and theatre.

Many painters were feeling frustrated with creating art to mimic reality. Instead of painting exactly what they saw, Symbolist painters felt their paintings should be a visual **outlet**¹ for their inner feelings and thoughts. To do this, they often painted mystical or loosely defined images as symbolic imagery to express themselves.

Many people believe Symbolism was an important art movement. Like Munch, some Symbolist painters painted **distorted**² figures. They also used line and color as never before. With these tools they made emotions like fear and jealousy scream out at the viewer.

¹ **outlet** – an activity that lets you express your feelings

² **distorted** – so badly formed or out of shape as to be ugly

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which painting does the text state is a prime example of Symbolism?

- a. Edvard Munch's *Melancholy*
- b. Edvard Munch's *The Scream*
- c. René Magritte's *The Son of Man*
- d. Edgar Degas's *Dancing Class*

2. What does the text describe?

- a. Edvard Munch's personal life
- b. how the Symbolist movement differed from other artistic movements
- c. how Symbolist painters expressed their feelings and thoughts in their paintings
- d. the difference between Symbolist painters of the past and modern Symbolist painters

3. Read the following sentences from the text:

"Many painters were feeling frustrated with creating art to mimic reality. Instead of painting exactly what they saw, Symbolist painters felt their paintings should be a visual outlet for their inner feelings and thoughts. To do this, they often painted mystical or loosely defined images as symbolic imagery to express themselves."

Based on this information, how can Symbolist paintings best be described?

- a. They represent a certain idea or belief.
- b. They accurately depict reality.
- c. They only show humans expressing a certain emotion.
- d. They show images unfamiliar to most people.

4. Why does the author explain what kinds of images Symbolist painters painted?

- a. to compare Symbolist art to Symbolist literature
- b. to show how Symbolist art changes as it spread throughout Europe and North America
- c. to explain why some people are confused by Symbolist art
- d. to highlight the fact that Symbolist painters wanted to express themselves as opposed to mimic reality

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- a. Edvard Munch’s *The Scream* shows us how frustrated the artist is on the inside.
- b. Symbolism became a way for artists to express their inner thoughts and feelings.
- c. The Symbolist movement started with French writers in response to the rigid structure of writing.
- d. French writers responded to society’s age of reason and value of material things with the Symbolist movement.

6. Describe Edvard Munch’s painting *The Scream* using at least three details to support your answer.

7. Explain why Edvard Munch’s painting *The Scream* is a good example of Symbolism. Use evidence from both the painting and the text to support your answer.

8. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Symbolist painters felt their paintings should be a visual outlet for their inner feelings and thoughts. _____, they often painted mystical or loosely defined images as symbolic imagery to express themselves.

- a. However
- b. Namely
- c. Otherwise
- d. As a result

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Symbolist painters painted distorted figures using line and color as never before in order to make emotions like fear and jealousy scream out at the viewer.

Who? Symbolist painters

What did Symbolist painters do? _____

How? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** movement: a trend or course of events; a group of people or organizations acting to achieve a common goal.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____
