

Guernica- Pablo Picasso

Lexile: 1080

Word count: 578

Grade: 8

Genre: Liberal Arts

**Vocabulary:** Devastating, Embodiment, Acclaimed, Grieving, Agony, Gaping, Mutilated, Stigma, Stigmata, Staggers, Comprises

1. Probably Pablo Picasso's most famous work, Guernica is certainly his most powerful political statement. It was painted as an immediate reaction to the Nazi's devastating casual bombing practice on the Basque town of Guernica during Spanish Civil War, on April 26, 1937.
2. Guernica shows the tragedies of war and the suffering it inflicts upon individuals, particularly innocent civilians.
3. Guernica is blue, black and white, 3.5 metre tall and 7.8 metre wide, a mural-size canvas painted in oil. This painting can be seen in the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid.
4. Guernica shows suffering people, animals, and buildings wrenched by violence and chaos.
5. The overall scene is within a room where, at an open end on the left, a wide-eyed bull stands over a woman grieving over a dead child in her arms.
6. The centre is occupied by a horse falling in agony as it had just been run through by a spear or javelin. The large gaping wound in the horse's side is a major focus of the painting.
7. Two "hidden" images formed by the horse appear in Guernica:
  - a. A human skull overlays the horse's body.
  - b. A bull appears to gore the horse from underneath. The bull's head is formed mainly by the horse's entire front leg which has the knee on the ground. The leg's knee cap forms the head's nose. A horn appears within the horse's breast.
8. The bull's tail forms the image of a flame with smoke rising from it, seemingly appearing in a window created by the lighter shade of gray surrounding it.
9. Under the horse is a dead, apparently mutilated soldier; his hand on a severed arm still grasps a shattered sword from which a flower grows.
10. On the open palm of the dead soldier is a stigma, a symbol of martyrdom derived from the stigmata of Christ.
11. A light bulb blazes in the shape of an evil eye over the suffering horse's head (the bare bulb of the torturer's cell). Picasso's intended symbolism in regards to this object is related to the

Spanish word for lightbulb; "bombilla", which is similar to the word "bomba" for bomb in Spanish.

12. To the upper right of the horse, a frightened female figure, who seems to be witnessing the scenes before her, appears to have floated into the room through a window. Her arm, also floating in, carries a flame-lit lamp. The lamp is positioned very close to the bulb, and is a symbol of hope, clashing with the light bulb.

13. From the right, an awe-struck woman staggers towards the center below the floating female figure. She looks up blankly into the blazing light bulb.

14. Daggers that suggest screaming replace the tongues of the bull, grieving woman, and horse.

15. A dove, holding an olive branch is scribed on the wall behind the bull. Part of its body comprises a crack in the wall through which bright light can be seen.

16. On the far right, a figure with arms raised in terror is entrapped by fire from above and below. The right hand of the man suggests the shape of an airplane.

17. A dark wall with an open door defines the right end of the mural.

18. This work has gained a huge status, becoming a continuous reminder of the tragedies of war, an anti-war symbol, and an embodiment of peace. On completion Guernica was displayed around the world in a brief tour, becoming famous and widely acclaimed. This tour helped bring the Spanish Civil War to the world's attention.



<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/7/74/PicassoGuernica.jpg/350px-PicassoGuernica.jpg>

1. RI 8.1

PART A

Which details best help explain why Pablo Picasso painted Guernica?

Picasso painted Guernica for the people of Italy to remind them of the War.

Picasso painted Guernica to encourage the Nazi soldier during World War II.

Picasso painted Guernica for the people of Germany to remind them of the War.

**Picasso painted Guernica as a response to the Nazi bombing of Guernica town.**

PART B RI 8.1

Drag and drop the evidence from Paragraph 1 from the text which supports the answer to Part A.

**It was painted as an immediate reaction to the Nazi's devastating casual bombing practice on the Basque town of Guernica during Spanish Civil War, on April 26, 1937.**

2. RI 8.2

What is the purpose of this text on Guernica? Choose two correct options.

The purpose of this text is to describe the bombing of a city called Guernica.

**The purpose of this text is to give the reasons why Picasso painted Guernica.**

**The purpose of this text is to describe the different images painted in Guernica.**

The purpose of this text is to give reasons why Picasso did not complete his painting.

3. RI 8.3

What can you infer about how Picasso was influenced by the violent political upheavals around him?

Picasso was influenced by the geography of Guernica, and that is reflected in his work of art.

Picasso was not affected by the tragedies of war, and his work of art shows his indifference.

**Picasso was deeply moved by the tragedies of war, and it is reflected in his work of art, Guernica.**

Picasso was influenced positively by the tragedies of war, and that motivated him to create a work of art.

4. RI 8.4

Drag and drop the words from Column A to match with their antonyms in Column B.

A	B
Devastating	Fortunate
Agony	Joy
Stagger	Stay
Gaping	Closed

5. RI 8.5

Which Paragraph describes the dimensions and the location of Guernica?

**Paragraph 3**

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 8

6. RI 8.6

Which statement best describes the intended effect of the painting Guernica?

Guernica was painted with the intention of displaying the creative genius of Pablo Picasso.

Guernica was painted with the intention of encouraging people to fight more aggressively in the war.

Guernica was painted with the intention of displaying the tragic effects of war on human beings alone.

**Guernica was painted with the intention of displaying the tragic effects of war on human beings, animals and buildings.**

7. RI 8.8

Why does the writer include the description of the painting? Choose two correct options.

The description shows how the writer has interpreted the painting, it is a personal point of view.

**The writer includes the description of the painting to reveal the complexity of Picasso's art.**

**The painting is difficult to understand without an explanation, hence the writer gives a description.**

The writer includes the description of the painting so that if someone wants to paint this picture again, it is easy.

8. L.8.2A

How would you correctly punctuate the following sentence?

“Pablo Picasso was the greatest painter of his time”

Pablo Picasso, was the greatest painter of his time.

Pablo, Picasso was the greatest, painter of his time.

Pablo Picasso was the greatest, painter of his time.

**Pablo Picasso was the greatest painter of his time.**

9. L.8.3

Which word is spelt incorrectly in the following sentence?

“Guernica signifies violance and tragedy of World War II.”

Guernica

signifies

violance

tragedy

10. W.8.8

Which source would help you find information about Pablo Picasso? Write your answer in the text area given below.

Books on history of Art, the Internet

11. W.8.1B

Which details support the fact that Guernica became very famous and gained immense importance? Write your answer in the text area given below.

The fact that this work gained a huge status, becoming a continuous reminder of the tragedies of war, an anti-war symbol, and an embodiment of peace. On completion Guernica was displayed around the world in a brief tour, becoming famous and widely acclaimed. This tour helped bring the Spanish Civil War to the world's attention.