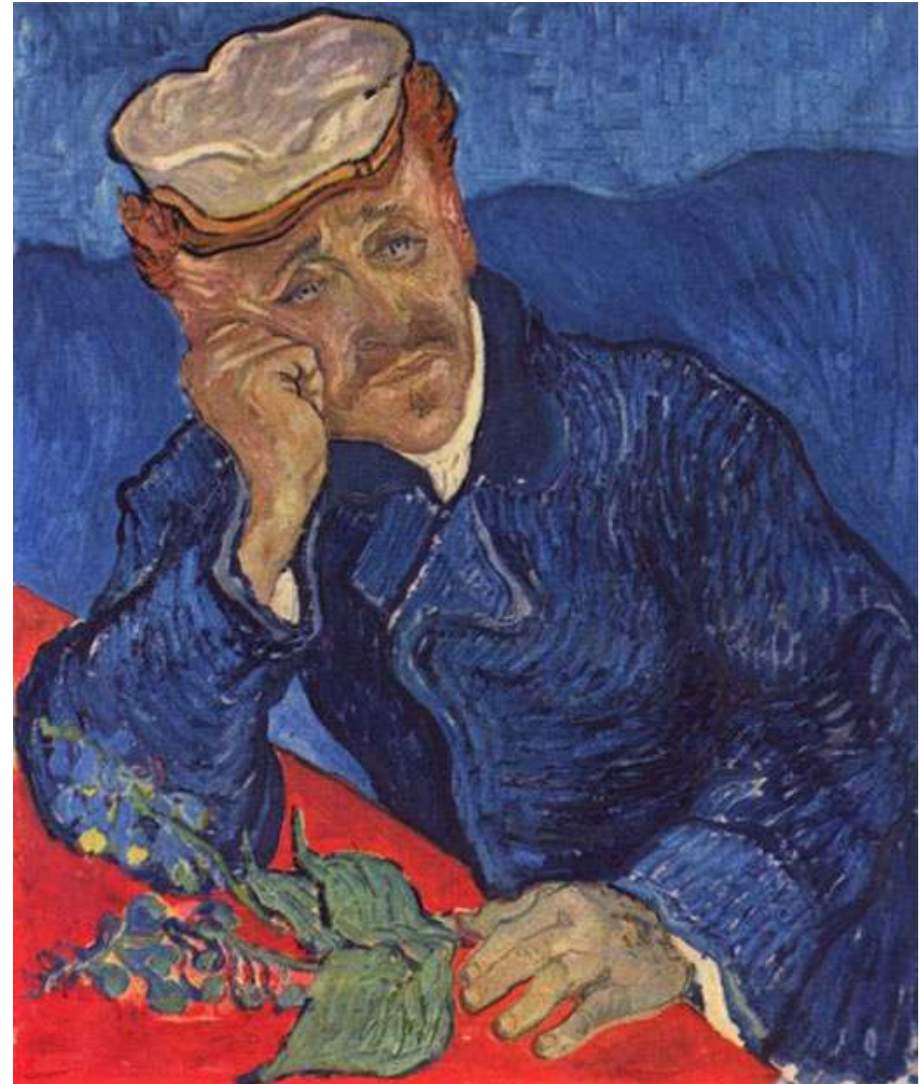


Portrait of Dr Gachet

A free TEFL lesson plan from
www.jamiekeddie.com

There are two parts to this file:

- Part 1: The lesson plan (pages 2 to 4).
You might want to print these off.
- Part 2: Two accompanying images (pages 5 and 6). These were obtained from www.wikipedia.org ("Portrait of Dr. Gachet" entry). Either print off the images or transfer this whole file onto a memory stick - this will allow you to display the images on a computer in your school.



Portrait of Dr Gachet: Lesson plan

1. Show your learners the first portrait of Dr Gachet (see page 5). Ask them if they can identify the artist and find out what they know about him.



Portrait of Dr Gachet
Vincent Van Gogh
1890
Musée d'Orsay, Paris

2. Remove the picture from your students' view and tell them that you are going to carry out an **observation test**. Tell them that you are going to dictate a number of statements about the painting. Some of these statements are true and some of them are false. During the dictation, if a student thinks that a statement is true, he or she should write it exactly as you say it. If on the other hand the student thinks that it is false, he or she should amend it accordingly.

True and false statements to be dictated

- Dr Gachet is wearing a green hat.
- He is resting his head on his right hand.
- He is looking directly at us.
- He has blue eyes and a moustache.
- You can see three buttons on his coat.
- The table is bright red.
- There are two yellow books on the table.
- There is a flower in Dr Gachet's left hand.
- He looks unhappy (subjective of course and open to argument)

Example:

Teacher says:

Dr Gachet is wearing a green hat.

Student could write any of the following:

- Dr Gachet is wearing a green hat.
- Dr Gachet is wearing a hat but it is not green.
- Dr Gachet is wearing a yellow hat.
- Dr Gachet isn't wearing a hat.

3. Once all statements have been dictated, allow everyone to share and compare their answers. Offer corrections wherever necessary.
4. Your students will want to see the painting again in order to find out how well they did. You are now going to play a trick on them: Rather than show them the image that they have already seen, show them the second version on page 6.



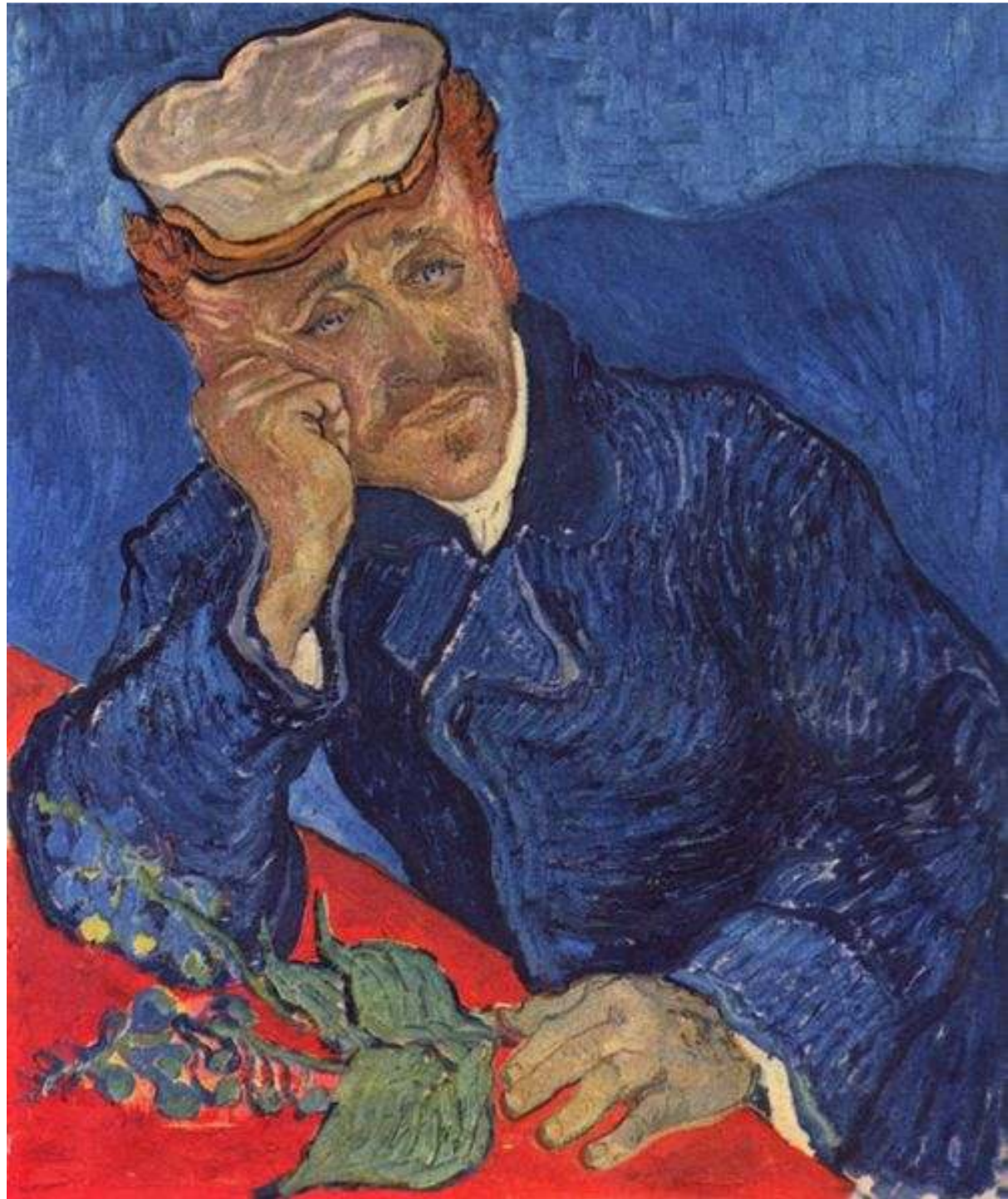
Portrait of Dr Gachet
Vincent Van Gogh
1890
Private collection

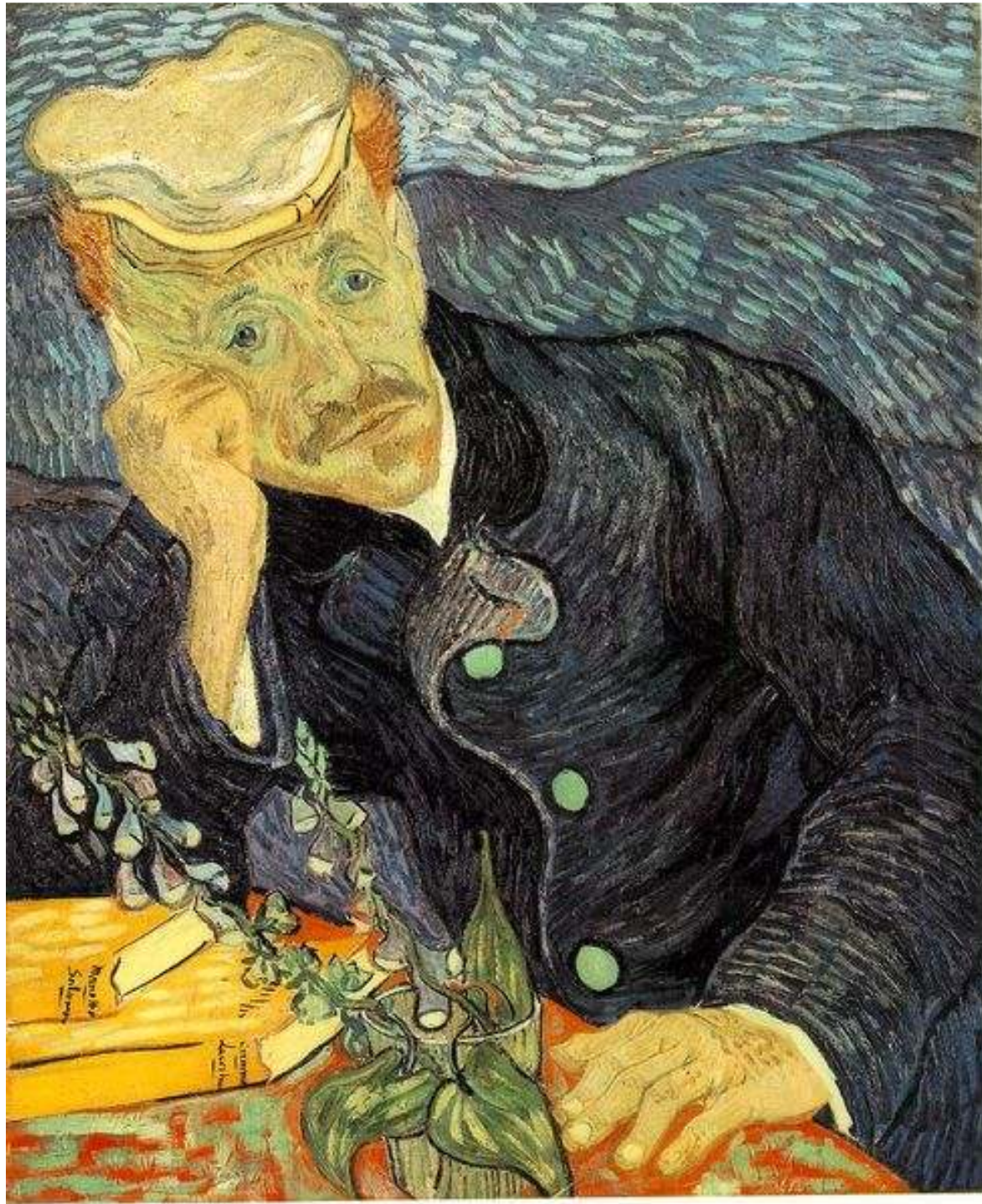
5. If nobody notices the discrepancy, tell your students that they have all failed the true **observation test** and ask if anyone can tell you why. Once it has been established that you switched pictures, your students will want to see the original version. Tell them that although you are not going to show it to them, you will be absolutely willing to answer any questions about it. Have your students pre-prepare the questions that they are going to ask about the original version of the painting.

NB For this step, your students will have to convert all of their statements into questions. Elicit or demonstrate how this is done with one or two examples before allowing your students to do the rest on their own or in pairs. Example questions:

- Is Dr Gachet wearing a green hat?
- Does he have blue eyes and a moustache?
- Is there a flower in his left hand?
- Can you see three buttons on his coat?

6. Arrange the image so that you can see it but your students can't. Answer their questions but only if they have been constructed correctly.
7. Let students see both versions, and decide which one they prefer. This can give rise to discussion while they identify differences in mood, colour, etc between the two versions. Alternatively, the two versions could be used to explore comparative adjectives.





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