

Jean-Baptiste Siméon Chardin

The Jar of Apricots

Use this sheet to look at the techniques Chardin used in his painting

1 List four places where Chardin has used pure white in the painting.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2 Choose five adjectives to describe different textures in the painting, and put them with a noun. For example, *smooth glass*.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

3 There is a clue in the painting that tells us that one object has not been there for long. Can you spot it?

4 Chardin balanced his composition with extreme care. Choose one object and cover it up with your hand. Notice how it removes the balance from the picture.

5 Select a colour and look at the places where Chardin has used it in the painting. For example, the red in the wine, apricots and two teacups makes a line across the canvas.

6 Look at the different background tones Chardin has used. The darkest tones are behind the jar lid and the glasses to show up their whiteness. He uses the pale colour of the cheese box to show up the spoon handle and the parcel string.

7 What food do you think would be stored in the brown paper parcel? What materials do we use to store food today that Chardin would not have known?

8 Although the painting looks detailed, Chardin actually used quite thick, chalky brush strokes. Find a place where the paint has cracked from being applied so thickly.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 3 AND 7: 3 – STEAM ABOVE THE TEACUP; 7 – PROBABLY BUTTER.

