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# ART & D.T. Reading Comprehension – Key Stage 2 – Year 5

#### The Gallery of Secrets

It was supposed to be a normal school trip. Just a day at the city's art gallery, sketching paintings and writing notes. That's what Miss Nolan had planned — but that's not what happened.

Lara and Jay wandered off from their group while sketching a huge painting of a stormy sea. It had dark waves, a broken ship, and a lighthouse in the distance. As Lara shaded the waves, she noticed something odd. The lighthouse window had a tiny flicker of gold — not painted, but real, like it was glowing.

"Did you see that?" she asked Jay.

"See what?"

"That flash in the lighthouse window."

Jay looked closer. "It's probably just a reflection," he said. But Lara wasn't so sure.

Later, while walking through the sculpture room, Lara noticed a pattern. Every artwork with the artist's name "E. Sparrow" had a hidden gold detail — a tiny sparkle in an eye, a shimmer in a necklace, a golden thread on a jacket. She pointed it out to Jay.

"There's something going on," she whispered.

"Or you just really like gold," he joked.

They continued exploring and finally reached a corner of the gallery that was quieter than the rest. There, on the wall, was a plain wooden door with no sign above it. It looked out of place among all the bright colours and lights. Lara turned the handle.

It was unlocked.

Inside was a small room with shelves of old sketchbooks and tiny paint pots. On one of the pages was a note:

"To those who see beyond the surface — keep searching. Art hides more than beauty."

Lara stared at it, eyes wide.

"Jay... I think this is a secret part of the gallery."

Jay grinned. "Well then," he said, "let's keep exploring."

# ART & D.T. Reading Comprehension – Key Stage 2 – Year 5

- 1. Why were Lara and Jay visiting the gallery?
- 2. What was strange about the lighthouse in the stormy sea painting?
- 3. What was Jay's explanation for the glowing light?
- 4. What was the artist's name that kept appearing on the artworks with gold details?
- 5. List three examples of gold that Lara noticed in different artworks.
- 6. Why do you think Lara kept investigating when Jay didn't believe her?
- 7. How does the author show that the door was mysterious?
- 8. What does the message in the sketchbook suggest about the gallery?
- 9. Why do you think the author included the character of Jay?
- 10. What do you think Lara and Jay will find if they keep exploring?

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#### MARK SCHEME

- 1. They were on a school trip to sketch paintings and write notes.
- 2. The lighthouse window had a tiny flicker of gold that looked real.
- 3. He said it was probably just a reflection.
- 4. E. Sparrow
- 5. A golden flicker in a lighthouse window, a shimmer in a necklace, a golden thread on a jacket.
- 6. Because she was curious and noticed a pattern, even when others didn't believe her.
- 7. It had no sign, was plain, quiet, and out of place in the colourful gallery.
- 8. That there are hidden messages or secrets in the artwork not just what's on the surface.
- 9. To give contrast to Lara's curiosity and to add humour and realism to the story.
- 10. They might discover more secret rooms, clues, or a hidden story behind the artwork.