



This text is from *Tales of King Arthur*, retold by Felicity Brooks in the Usborne Classics Retold series.

# The Sword in the Stone

‘Please can I come with you?’ begged Arthur. ‘Please?’

He was watching his father and brother as they saddled their horses. They were about to go to a tournament, and Arthur was determined not to be left out. It had to be worth just one more try.

‘I promise I won’t get in the way, and I’ll sharpen your weapons and shine up your armour and look after the horses,’ he said, trying a direct appeal to his father. Sir Ector, who was busy loading the saddlebags, did not look up.

‘You can’t go,’ said Kay dismissively. ‘You’re not even a knight.’

Kay, or rather Sir Kay, as Arthur now had to call him, had just been knighted, and he took great delight in reminding his brother of this fact. Now, after years of training, he was at last allowed to take part in a real tournament. His sword was razor-sharp, his brand-new armour had been polished to perfection, and he could hardly wait to show off his jousting skills. The last thing he wanted was his little brother tagging along behind him.

‘But you’ll need a **squire**,’ said Arthur. ‘Please let me be your squire.’

Sir Ector glanced down at Arthur’s earnest, expectant face. There were good reasons why he didn’t want him to go. He wished he could explain. But then, what harm could it really do?

‘Well, Arthur, I suppose you might be useful...’

‘But father!’ protested Kay. Ector ignored him.

‘And you’ll be a knight yourself soon, so this will be a chance for you to learn how to behave. But one hint of trouble...’

‘You won’t even know I’m there,’ grinned Arthur. He was already packing his bag. Kay shot him a filthy look and was still muttering under his breath when they set off.

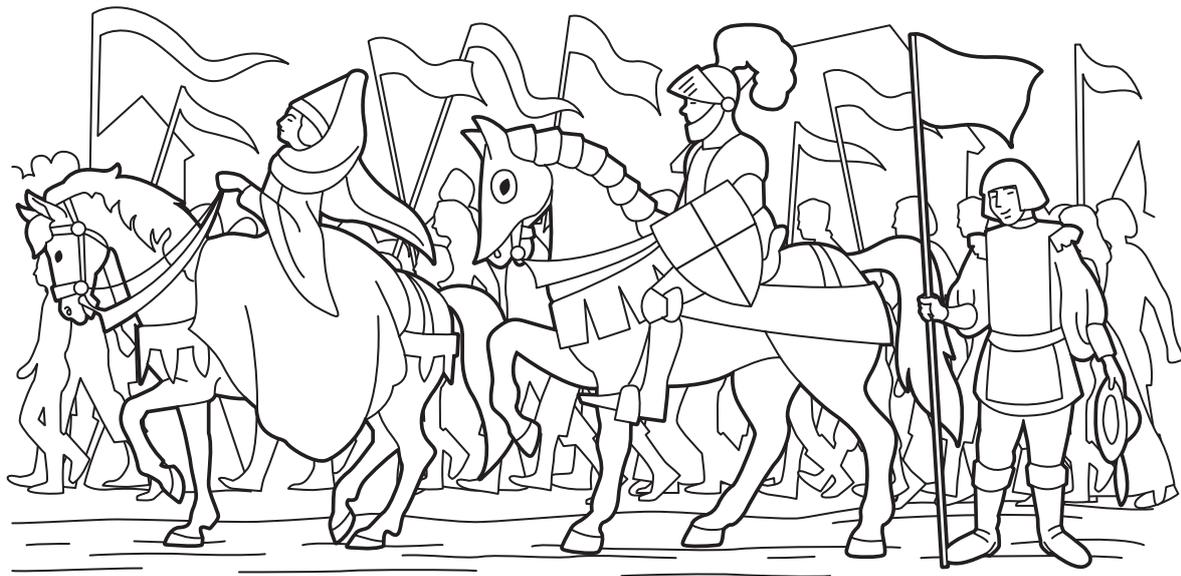
The tournament had been arranged for New Year’s Day, and people were coming

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## Glossary

**squire** – a boy or young man who served a knight and looked after his armour and weapons; squires were often knights in training.

from far and wide to take part or watch. Knights with their squires, dukes and earls, ladies on horseback, barons with their servants, whole families of peasants, wandering minstrels, shepherds, beggars, butchers, bakers, candlestickmakers and hordes of other curious onlookers thronged the muddy road, all heading for the town where the tournament was to take place. Ector soon realized that they'd have little chance of finding a place to stay unless one of them went ahead.



'I'll go,' said Arthur. 'I'll try the Blue Boar Inn first, and if there's no room there, I'll leave a message to say where I've gone.'

'All right,' said Ector. 'We'll meet you there. Ride safely!'

Arthur charged off at full gallop.

As soon as he was out of earshot, Ector turned to Kay conspiratorially.

'I think you should know that this isn't just any old tournament,' he said.

'What do you mean?' asked Kay.

'Well, the story I've heard is that the Archbishop has arranged it for a particular purpose.'

'And what's that?'

'To find the new king,' said Ector.



This poem is by Gillian Clarke.

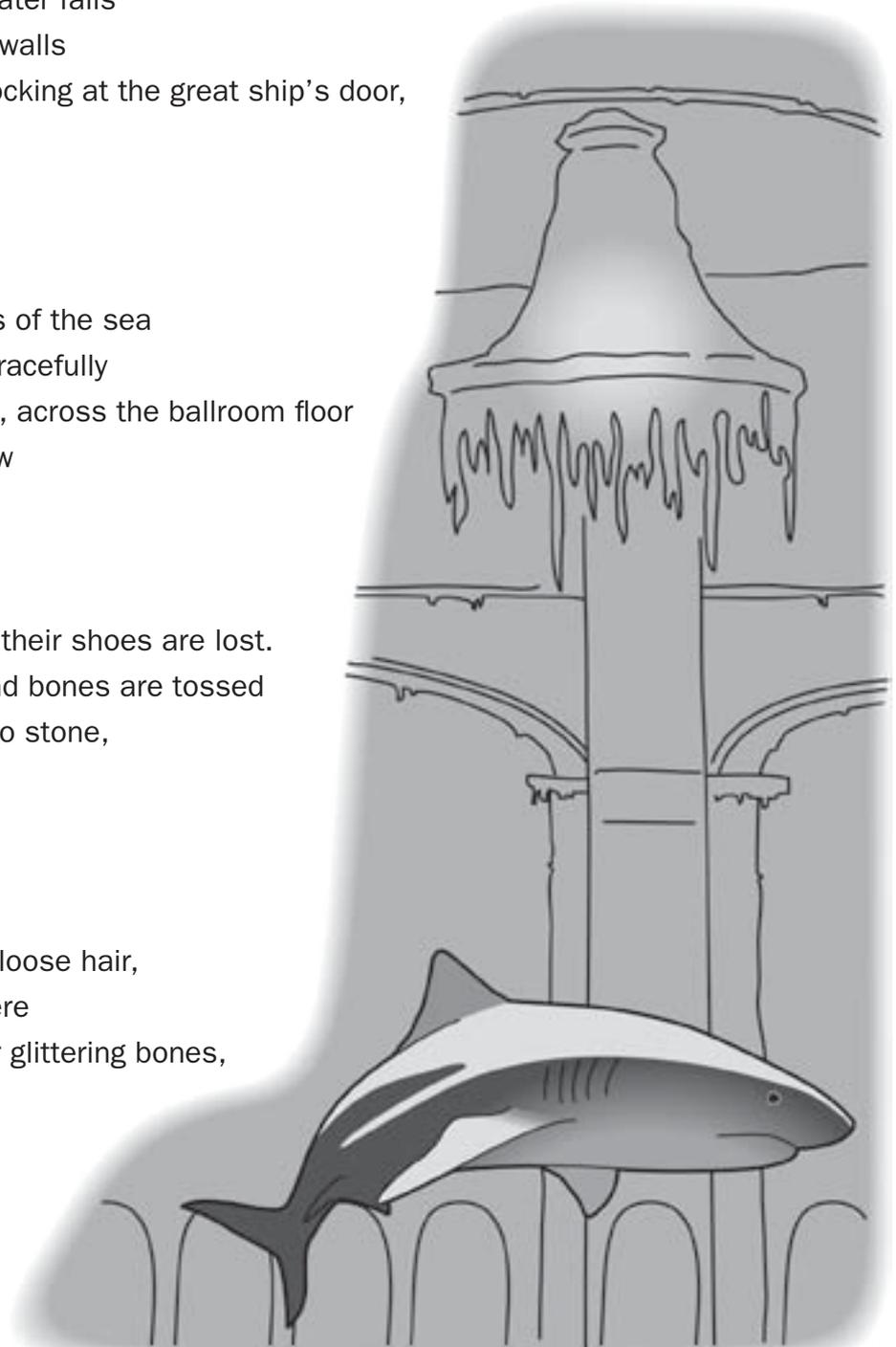
# The Titanic

Under the ocean where water falls  
over the decks and tilted walls  
where the sea comes knocking at the great ship's door,  
the band still plays  
to the drum of the waves,  
to the drum of the waves.

Down in the indigo depths of the sea  
the white shark waltzes gracefully  
down the water stairways, across the ballroom floor  
where the cold shoals flow  
and ghost dancers go,  
ghost dancers go.

Their dresses are frayed, their shoes are lost.  
their jewels and beads and bones are tossed  
into the sand, all turned to stone,  
as they sing in the sea  
eternally,  
eternally.

Currents comb their long loose hair,  
dancers sway forever where  
the bright fish nibble their glittering bones,  
till they fall asleep  
in the shivering deep,  
in the shivering deep.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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# The Sword in the Stone

1 From what you learn in the passage, tick to show whether the following are **fact** or **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Kay has just been knighted.		
Kay thinks that Arthur is annoying.		
Kay is older than Arthur.		

2b  
1 mark

2 'And you'll be a knight yourself soon, so this will be a chance for you to learn how to behave. But one hint of trouble...'

What does *But one hint of trouble...* mean? Tick **one**.

Someone has hinted that Arthur might cause trouble.

Arthur will be sent home if he misbehaves.

Arthur might find the tournament difficult.

Ector thinks Arthur will be badly behaved.

2a  
1 mark

3 Why is Kay muttering under his breath when they set off for the tournament? Explain your answer fully, using the text to help you.

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2d  
2 marks

/ 4  
Total for this page

- 4 Number these events to show the order in which they happen.  
The first one has been done for you.

- Arthur rides ahead to the Blue Boar Inn.
- Kay tells Arthur he can't go.
- Ector explains the purpose of the tournament.
- Ector agrees to let Arthur go.
- 1 Arthur pleads with his father to let him go to the tournament.

2f  
1 mark

- 5 *Arthur charged off at full gallop.  
As soon as he was out of earshot, Ector turned to Kay conspiratorially.*

What impression does the phrase *Ector turned to Kay conspiratorially* give of Ector? Tick **one**.

- He is a criminal.
- He favours Kay over Arthur.
- He is friendly.
- He wants to tell Kay something he doesn't want Arthur to hear.

2a  
1 mark

- 6 Look at the paragraph beginning: *The tournament...*  
What is this paragraph **mainly** about? Tick **two**.

- The tournament is being held in a town.
- It is a winter tournament.
- A lot of people are going to the tournament.
- The road into the town is muddy.
- It may be difficult to find a place to stay.

2b  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

7 One of the aspects of Arthur's character is his strong will.  
What evidence is there in the passage to support this opinion?  
Explain as fully as you can, using the text to help you answer.

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2f  
2 marks

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8 Which of the following descriptions best fits this passage? Tick **one**.

- a legend
- an historical account
- a fairy tale
- a fable

2f  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# The Titanic

- 1 Write **one** word from the whole poem in each space below to complete the pairs of rhyming words. One has been done for you.

falls	walls
sea	
flow	
hair	

	2b
1 mark	

- 2 Look at these lines from the first verse:

*over the decks and tilted walls  
where the sea comes knocking at the great ship's door,  
the band still plays*

In **your own words**, what do these lines tell you about the *Titanic*?  
Write **two** things.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

	2d
2 marks	

- 3 Look at these lines from the first verse:

*the band still plays  
to the drum of the waves,*

What do these lines suggest about the waves?

\_\_\_\_\_

	2a
1 mark	

	/ 4
Total for this page	

4 Why does the poet say that *the white shark waltzes*?

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2g  
1 mark

5 Look at this line from the last verse:

*the bright fish nibble their glittering bones,*

Think about the phrase *glittering bones*. Which of the following could replace it in the poem while keeping the same meaning? Tick **one**.

- shiny stones
- skeletons clean
- sparkling jewels
- colourful fish

2a  
1 mark

6 This poem uses alliteration (repeated sounds).

For example:

*as they sing in the sea*

Find and copy **one** other line from the poem that uses alliteration.  
Underline the repeated sounds.

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2g  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

7 Draw lines to match each phrase with what it shows you about the dancers.

Phrase	The dancers...
their jewels and beads	have been there a long time
all turned to stone	don't look as good as they once did
and ghost dancers go	are wealthy
Their dresses are frayed, their shoes are lost	are dead

1 mark

2g

8 The poem is very rhythmical (has a strong rhythm). Why do you think the poet chose to make the poem so rhythmical?

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1 mark

2g

9 Think about the whole poem. What is it **mainly** about? Tick the **best** answer.

- music
- the ocean
- dancing
- death

1 mark

2c

/ 10

Total for this test



This text is from *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman, adapted for the stage by Stephen Russell.

# The Firework-Maker's Daughter

## ACT 1

### 1 – LALCHAND'S WORKSHOP

*Workbenches, chemicals, rockets, etc. A fuse is laid leading to a firework. A scruffy and dirty girl, LILA, comes onstage. She carefully adds a tiny amount of delicate powder to the firework, thinks about it, adds a tiny bit more. She thinks 'why not' and pours a load in. She steps back and lights the fuse. It burns quickly towards the firework. LILA takes cover offstage.*

*A man, LALCHAND the Firework-Maker, walks into the workshop. He watches the fuse for a moment, then stands on it, putting it out.*

LALCHAND: Lila!

*LILA returns.*

LALCHAND: What's this?

LILA: A rudimentary experiment, father.

*LALCHAND grunts.*

LILA: A standard Java Light, with cloud powder instead of flowers of salt.

LALCHAND: (*Impressed.*) Have you given it a name?

LILA: Tumbling Demons.

LALCHAND: Excellent. If it works I'll put it in the New Year Festival display.

LILA: That's three of my fireworks in your display.

LALCHAND: I know, and I'll let everybody else know too, *if I win.*

LILA: *When you win.*

LALCHAND: From your mouth to the King's ears, eh?

*LILA throws some matches to LALCHAND. LALCHAND strikes a match.*

LILA: There's a poster in the market. They've announced the other competitors.

*LALCHAND's interested and forgets about the lit match.*

LALCHAND: Who do I have to beat this year?

LILA: The usual lot. The greatest firework-makers in the world.

LALCHAND: Who are the favourites?

LILA: Herr Puffenflasz, of course.

LALCHAND: The King likes him. Ouch!

*The match burns LALCHAND's fingers.*

LILA: The King loves him, but he can't win three years in a row.

*LALCHAND lights another match, sets it to the fuse and steps back.*

LILA: And there's an American – Colonel Sam Sparkington. No one knows anything about him.

LALCHAND: You know what the Americans are like, they never go anywhere unless they're sure they're going to win.

*(Talking about the firework.)*

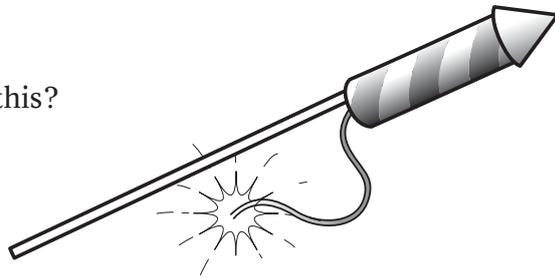
Did you put anything else in this?

LILA: A little scorpion oil.

LALCHAND: One drop or two?

LILA: A teaspoon.

LALCHAND: *(Horrorified.)* A teaspoon!?



*The firework explodes. LALCHAND and LILA have all but had the clothes blown off them.*

LILA: That's too much, isn't it.

LALCHAND: You could've blown up the whole city! You don't know enough to use those ingredients.

LILA: If you made me your apprentice I'd learn about things like that.

LALCHAND: So it's my fault you nearly killed us, is it? You're such an ignorant girl!

LILA: I know about most things.

LALCHAND: What are the ingredients of fly-away powder?

*LALCHAND waves his hand and creates a shower of sparks in the air.*

LILA: I don't know that.

LALCHAND: Where do you find thunder-grains?

*LALCHAND throws a thunder-grain at LILA's feet. It makes a loud bang.*

*LILA jumps.*

LILA: Or that.

LALCHAND: There's no limit to the things you don't know.

LILA: I know about the secret!

LALCHAND: What?

LILA: I know about the secret. The secret all firework-makers have to know.

LALCHAND: What is it?

**N.B: Remember that you should never play with fireworks. It is extremely dangerous.**

 This text is adapted from: [www.ducksters.com](http://www.ducksters.com)

# Michelangelo



## *Growing up*

Michelangelo Buonarroti was born in Caprese, Italy on March 6, 1475. He was still young when his family moved to Florence where Michelangelo grew up. His mother died when he was only six years old.

Growing up in Florence during the Italian Renaissance was the perfect environment for young Michelangelo. Even as a child all he wanted to do was paint and be an artist. His father, a local government official, wanted Michelangelo to go to school, but he had little interest in school. At the age of thirteen he was apprenticed to Domenico Ghirlandaio, a painter and artist.

## *Training to be an artist*

Michelangelo's talents became apparent as he worked for Ghirlandaio. Within a year or so he was sent to the powerful Medici family to continue his training under the sculptor Bertoldo di Geovanni. Michelangelo was able to work with some of the finest artists and philosophers of the time.

## *The Pieta*

In 1496 Michelangelo moved to Rome. A year later he received a commission to make a sculpture called the Pieta. It would become one of the masterpieces of Renaissance art. The sculpture shows Jesus after he was crucified lying on the lap of his mother Mary. Today this sculpture sits in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is the only piece of art that Michelangelo signed.

## *Statue of David*

Michelangelo's fame as a great artist began to grow. He returned to Florence and received another commission to create a large statue of David the giant-killer. It took him a couple of years to finish the enormous statue. The piece of marble he began with was very tall and thin. Many people didn't think he could do much with it. He worked in secrecy, not letting anyone see it until it was finished.

David became Michelangelo's most famous work of art. It is thirteen feet tall and was the largest statue made since Ancient Roman times. It is considered by many experts in art to be a near perfect sculpture. Today the statue resides at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy.

## *Sistine Chapel*

In 1505 Michelangelo returned to Rome. He was commissioned by the Pope in 1508 to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo considered himself to be a sculptor, but agreed to paint the Sistine Chapel for the Pope. He worked for four years, painting upside down on a scaffold in order to finish the painting. The painting was huge (141 feet long by 43 feet wide). It contained nine scenes from the Bible down its centre. The most famous of all the scenes is The Creation of Adam. At the centre of the scene, God's hand and Adam's hand nearly touch. This is one of the most recreated scenes in all of art and, along with the Mona Lisa, is one of the most famous paintings in history.



### *Interesting facts about Michelangelo*

- His full name was Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni.
- When he was seventeen he was hit on the nose by fellow artist Pietro Torrigiano in an argument. His nose was severely broken as can be seen in the portraits we have of Michelangelo.
- He painted The Last Judgment, a famous painting on the wall of the Sistine Chapel.
- He was also a poet who wrote over 300 poems.

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# The Firework-Maker's Daughter

1 Where is this scene set?

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1 mark 2b

2 Which of the following is true about Lalchand? Tick **one**.

He wants to win the New Year Festival display.

He is confident he will win the New Year Festival display.

He spoils Lila.

He is keen to make Lila his apprentice.

1 mark 2b

3 Read these lines from the text:

LALCHAND: I know, and I'll let everybody else know too, *if* I win.

LILA: *When* you win.

Why does Lila say When you win?

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1 mark 2d

1/3  
Total for this page

4 Draw lines to match each aspect of the text with how it is shown.  
One has been done for you.

Aspect of text	How it is shown
stage directions	capital letters
direct speech	italics
characters' names	underlined capital letters
scene titles	standard text

2f  
1 mark

5 Read these lines from the text:

LILA:           The usual lot. The greatest firework-makers in the world.  
LALCHAND:   Who are the favourites?  
LILA:           Herr Puffenflasch, of course.

Why has the writer chosen to use the name *Herr Puffenflasch*?

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2g  
1 mark

6 Number these events to show the order in which they happen.  
The first one has been done for you.

- A firework goes off.
- 1 Lila lights a firework.
- Lalchand burns his fingers.
- Lalchand asks Lila questions to test her knowledge.
- Lila tells Lalchand about the poster in the market place.

2f  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

7 In this scene what mood is the writer aiming to create in the audience?  
Tick the **best** answer.

- relaxation
- tension
- fear
- amusement

2d  
1 mark

8 Look at the first part of the dialogue, from *LALCHAND: Lila!* to *LILA: Tumbling Demons*. **Find** and **copy a phrase** that means the same as 'a simple test'.

\_\_\_\_\_

2a  
1 mark

9 Lalchand says to Lila: *You're such an ignorant girl!*  
Explain whether you think this is true, giving **two** reasons to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2d  
2 marks

/ 10  
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Michelangelo

1 Which of the following descriptions best fits this text? Tick **one**.

- |               |                          |           |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| autobiography | <input type="checkbox"/> | biography | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| account       | <input type="checkbox"/> | report    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

	2f
1 mark	

2 Michelangelo was a sculptor. According to the text, **what else** was he? Tick **two**.

- |               |                          |                       |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| a philosopher | <input type="checkbox"/> | a government official | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a painter     | <input type="checkbox"/> | a poet                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a scientist   | <input type="checkbox"/> |                       |                          |

	2b
1 mark	

3 Look at the section headed *Statue of David*. **Find** and **copy a sentence** to show that Michelangelo did a good job of sculpting a statue of David.

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	2b
1 mark	

4 Tick to show whether the following sentences about Michelangelo are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
He was born in Florence.		✓
He enjoyed his time at school.		
He could be argumentative.		
Painting was the art form he loved the most.		
He was not happy with the Pieta.		

	2d
2 marks	

	/ 5
Total for this page	

5 Look at the section headed *Sistine Chapel*.  
 What is the main point the writer is trying to make about Michelangelo?  
 Tick **one**.

- He was a sculptor.
- He was religious.
- He was famous.
- He was dedicated.

2b  
1 mark

6 Michelangelo was a very talented artist.  
 How do you know this? Explain as fully as you can, using the text to help you.

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2d  
2 marks

7 Draw lines to match each phrase with what it shows you about Michelangelo.

**Phrase**

**Michelangelo was...**

- all he wanted to do was...  
be an artist
- He... wrote over 300 poems
- the only piece of art that  
Michelangelo signed
- he was hit on the nose...  
in an argument
- one of the masterpieces of  
Renaissance art

- uninterested in fame
- exceptionally talented
- single-minded
- hot-headed
- creative

2a  
2 marks

/ 10  
Total for this test