

PART 3

You are going to read a newspaper article about paintings by blind children. Eight sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A-I the one which fits each gap (14-20). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

The Gift of Sight

As soon as I was born I saw a long black sea In front of me Light was dark

Shadows were people (poem by a blind person, Jorge Armont)

To see is perhaps the greatest gift of all. It is a gift of beauty and knowledge without which man could not have mastered his surroundings. It brings the sense of colour into our lives, along with the sense of direction. However, one does not need eyes in order to see.

0 D Sunlight, flowers, glistening rivers and many more joys of the world are captured by blind and partially blind children in a very interesting exhibition at the National Research Foundation. How can blind people draw things which they have never seen, or use colours which they do not know? For some, other senses can perform the seeing function. It has been proved by scientists that once sight no longer functions, other senses strengthen to a great extent. 14

Bearing this in mind, one realises that these artists are not just windows of the world we live in, but also windows of the soul.

The children draw after discussion, which enables them to convey the subject, and then they make miniature, rough sketches of subjects such as houses and trees.

According to Mrs Anna Laoutari, children's author and educator, this is the way children understand shapes and mass, sun and sky. 15 Once children are shown the shapes and symbols, they are told about the colours these have, where each colour

can be found and what these mean to people. "The crayons are separated into boxes, and each box has a number," says Ms Laoutari.

Using different objects to represent different colours is one method used. 16 Yellow is associated with a lemon, brown with the colour and the aroma of coffee, red with a tomato and so on.

Thirty-three countries took part in the exhibition, and emphasis was placed on various teaching methods. For instance, in England, tracing was involved. In some countries, like Switzerland and Romania, children would scratch their designs into hard surfaces. 17 In the former Yugoslavia, they scrunched up paper and glued it. All kinds of material were used - from crayons and matches to pencil sharpenings. 18

Many of the works were similar in quality to the work of children with sight, such as the Portuguese Ana Caterina Rua's matchstick house, decorated with shavings.

Interesting also were the many interpretations of night as "seen" by blind children. 19

South African Robert Vemon drew a very touching picture of a faceless black boy holding the hand of a faceless white boy, showing that not only is love blind but that blindness does not differentiate between races.

The conclusions which one can draw from these 250 works are many. 20 Another conclusion could be that we should learn to accept the fact the blind people have a different conception of things which are common to those who are blessed with sight.

TEST 5

- A She explains that the teachers show them symbols which are cardboard cut-outs of the sun's rays, clouds and so on.
B In Germany, harsh black and white outlines were used. In Hungary, they went one step further by using shading.
C Whatever they used, from scratched, rigid outlines to a vague interplay of colours, the emphasis was on the kind of material used and the form it could take.
D Perhaps this ability is not so strange considering that artists have often insisted that it is more important to "feel" rather than see.
E Another method is to compare colours to familiar tastes.
F One is that we need to re-think our assumptions about the role of sight in art.
G It is quite amazing when such abilities take on an artistic form.
H One anonymous work portrayed night as complete darkness with just a sharp point of bright yellow in the middle.
I Special training may help blind children become more creative.

PART 4

You are going to read some information about some properties for sale. For questions 21-35, choose from advertisements (A-E). Some may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Which property would you recommend for someone who:

- is keen on outdoor activities? 0 E
is willing to do some work on the property? 21
wants to be near an airport? 22 23
needs more space for an expanding business? 24
owns horses? 25
is concerned about security? 26
enjoys swimming? 27 28
wants a luxurious property? 29 30
needs an attractive space outdoors suitable for private lunch parties? 31
wants to take over a business? 32
would like to convert an existing building to another use? 33
wishes to rent an additional property nearby? 34
would like a sauna? 35

Exclusive Country Properties

- A. Cote D'Azur
This 16th century, artistically restored village house has two large reception rooms, three bedrooms and two bathrooms, one en suite. Hidden away from traffic and crowds, it is set in a medieval village between Nice and Cannes. In addition to the beautifully decorated interiors, it has a picturesque patio and terraced garden overlooking the Mediterranean. Only ten minutes from Nice Airport, the asking price is Ffr 2.6 million. There is also an adjoining apartment which is available for letting.
B. Small Country Hotel, France
This unique property is set in one of the most beautiful villages of France. With magnificent views over the Correze and Dordogne, it comprises 12 guest rooms with bathrooms en suite, fully licensed period restaurant and lounge with seating for 30 diners, and a charming terrace with seating for 40 diners. There is also separate staff accommodation, and comfortable accommodation for the owner - a quaint cottage in the grounds. A swimming pool and landscaped garden complete the attractions of this charming, well-established hotel. Price on application.
C. Tromso, Norway
This large, versatile building is available for sale or rent in approximately 6 months' time. It has three floors and basement level with drive-in access. The second floor is 150 m^2, including a residential flat of 95 m^2 and flexible office space. The first floor, of about 314 m^2, is currently in use as office space, but movable partitions offer a great deal of scope for rearrangement. The ground floor at present houses a retail outlet of 110 m^2, while the remaining 155 m^2 is in use as office space, offering a total floor space of 265 m^2. The basement area is also 265 m^2, with ample parking and storage space. Also available is a vacant plot next to the building, suitable for parking or further development, subject to planning permission. This is a property with endless possibilities.
D. Switzerland, Ticino
This delightful property is located in the sunny south of Switzerland, 5 km from Lugano. Set on a hillside in a semi-rural greenbelt area, it is a charming residence in mint condition. Apart from four bedrooms and three bathrooms, there is a spacious living-dining room, large live-in kitchen, study, fully-equipped laundry, wine cellar, sauna, full central heating, garage for three cars, electronic alarm system, small barn and many extras. The beautifully landscaped garden boasts a magnificent swimming pool surrounded by camellias and roses. 2,000 m^2 of grazing land are available on an adjoining lot.
E. County Kerry, Ireland
This 170 acre farm, overlooking Kenmare Bay, is set in tranquil surroundings just 45 minutes from Kilarney Airport. The property is ideal for sheep, cattle, pony trekking, hunting, fishing, golf and sailing. The newly-rebuilt, south-facing farmhouse has panoramic views of the bay and surrounding countryside. It is comprised of three bedrooms, large kitchen, lounge, study and two bathrooms. There are also outbuildings, farmyard, paddock and well-maintained gardens.

For all of the above properties, contact Exclusive Country Properties, telephone 0101 427 9962.