

Vanitas

Vanitas is a Latin term which means vain, empty or useless.

1. What's on your "wish list," or the next purchase you would like to make? Who is someone you might like to trade lives with for a week, if you could?
2. What are some common valued possessions in your country: perhaps things that may be collected and prized within a family?
3. Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." What do you think Jesus meant by this? Do you agree or disagree with his point of view? Why?
4. "Vanitas" describe a certain kind of painting that was popular in the Netherlands in the early 17th century. People would paint objects that reminded them that life is short, and our pursuits, such as wealth or pleasure can be empty and enjoyed only briefly. Identify the symbols you see in the painting on the other side. Draw something you would put in a vanitas painting.

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Adriaen van Utrecht. Still Life with Bouquet and Skull, c. 1642.. Oil on canvas, 67 x 86 cm.
Private collection



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