

e-future Classic Readers

LEVEL 4-8

The Oval Portrait



Edgar Allan Poe

A Use the clues to unscramble the words.

1. Kings and queens live there

t l e a c s



2. It gives light

l a c e n d



3. Round but not a circle

l o a v



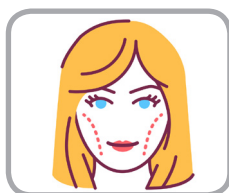
4. A picture of someone's face

a t r i p t o r



5. Part of the face

k h e c e



6. Thinking about one thing;
concentrating

d e s c o f u



B Write the antonym for the given word. Change the form if needed.

unfinished

shadow

weak

servant

1. The light fell onto a painting hidden in the _____ .
light

2. People were amazed because the _____ portrait was so lifelike.
done

3. One day, I was out walking with my _____, Pedro.
master

4. The painter did not see that his wife was becoming _____ and sick.
strong

C Write the correct word to complete the sentence.

as (X2)

before

if

that (X2)

1. "Please call me _____ you need anything," he said.
2. Even _____ it was finished, the painting looked just like the woman.
3. _____ I turned the page, I saw a picture of the oval portrait.
4. He did not see _____ his wife was unhappy.
5. _____ he painted her golden hair, her real hair grew whiter.
6. Every brush stroke _____ he made took away some of her youth.

D Write your own sentences using the same pattern.

Linking Verbs: *be, become, grow, look*

Linking verbs don't name actions.
They **link** the subject to information about the subject.
Often, this information is a noun or an adjective.

It **was** a strange story.

(*It = story*)

Her hair **grew** whiter.

(*Her hair = whiter*)

He **became** angry easily.

(*He = angry*)

She **looks** so tired.

(*She = tired*)

1. Yesterday **was** _____ .
noun or adjective
2. Today the sky **looks** _____ .
adjective
3. When I'm older, I'd like to **become** _____ .
noun or adjective
4. _____ .
(your idea)

A Choose the best answers.

1. Which is true about the man telling the story?



- a. He hurt himself.
- b. He lived in the castle.
- c. He painted the oval portrait.

2. Why did the young woman hate her husband's art?



- a. Because he was a bad painter
- b. Because it took too much of his time
- c. Because he didn't want to paint her

3. What happened as the artist painted the portrait?



- a. He started to feel weak.
- b. People talked about how bad it was.
- c. His wife's health grew worse and worse.

4. The artist worked on the portrait for



- a. a few days
- b. many weeks
- c. several years

B Circle the right answer and write it in the blank.

1. The oval portrait looked like _____ .
a living person / an old woman

2. The young woman _____ most things
loved / hated

3. The painter was very _____ the painting of his wife.
unhappy with / focused on

4. People came to the tower to _____ .
watch him paint / tell him to stop

C Put a check mark (✓) next to the true sentences.

1. ☐ The man read the story about the portrait in a book.
☐ The man heard the story about the portrait from a servant.

2. ☐ The young wife was very excited about the portrait.
☐ The young wife did not like the idea of the portrait.

3. ☐ The young woman's friends saw that she looked tired.
☐ The young woman's friends did not see any change.

4. ☐ In the end, the young woman looked more beautiful.
☐ In the end, the young woman lost her youth.



D Complete the summary with the correct words.

frame weak old paintings lifelike castle artist

A man once had to spend the night in a(n) 1. _____. The walls there had a lot of 2. _____ on them. One was a portrait of a woman in an oval 3. _____. The man read a story about it. The woman was young and in love with her husband. He was a(n) 4. _____, and he wanted to paint her. She hated his art because he spent too much time on it, but she agreed. The portrait was very 5. _____. But as he painted her, the young woman grew 6. _____ and sick. When it was finally done, she looked like a(n) 7. _____ woman.