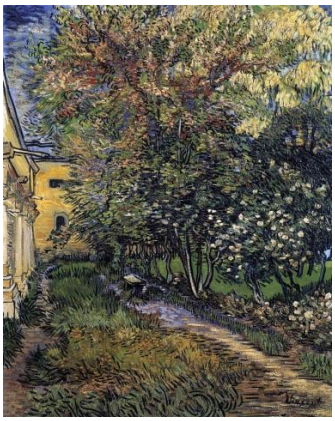
VINCENT at SAINT-REMY



0. VINCENT at SAINT-REMY - Story Preface

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13. VINCENT COMMITS SUICIDE

14. THE SADNESS WILL LAST FOREVER

After Vincent checked into Saint-Paul Hospital in Saint-Rémy, he continued to paint. This oil-on-canvas, which measures 95 x 76 cm, depicts “The Garden of Saint-Paul Hospital.” Vincent created it during May of 1889. Today it is owned by the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, in Otterlo. Click on the image for a better view.

When Vincent checked into Saint-Paul Hospital in Saint-Rémy, he did not know what was causing his problems. Working without a previous diagnosis, his current doctor - Théophile Zacharie Auguste Peyron - believed van Gogh had a form of epilepsy. Today, scholars who have studied his condition tend to agree.

Soon after becoming a patient at Saint-Paul, van Gogh began to paint his surroundings: the hospital's garden, an iris, lilacs, a field of poppies, the mountainous landscape behind the hospital, cypress trees, an olive grove, a wheat field and - famously - a group of irises. He also described what it felt like when he had an attack:

> *Again - speaking of my condition - I am so grateful for yet another thing. I've noticed that others, too, hear sounds and strange voices during their attacks, as I did, and that things seemed to change before their very eyes. And that lessened the horror with which I remembered my first attack, something that, when it comes upon you unexpectedly, cannot but frighten you terribly.*
>
> *Once you know it is part of the illness, you accept it like anything else ... For the suffering and the anguish are not funny when you are having an attack.* (May 22, 1889 letter to Theo.)

Vincent's care-givers allowed him to paint when his condition was stable. Within a month after his arrival, he painted Starry Night - his most famous work. But even when things seemed stable, attacks would occur.

By mid-July of 1889 - soon after he painted a mountainous cottage scene - Vincent tried to swallow his own paints. When they were taken from him, he was beside himself since his art was the only thing which helped him stay reasonably calm.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VINCENT-at-SAINT-REMY-Vincent-Van-Gogh

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/VINCENT-at-SAINT-REMY-Vincent-Van-Gogh

Media Stream



Ad for Vincent's Hospital in Saint-Remy

Image online, courtesy University of Seville (a Spanish-language website) and its illustrated biography of Vincent van Gogh.

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Environment at Saint-Remy Hospital - Painting Scene

Image online, courtesy University of Seville (a Spanish-language website) and its illustrated biography of Vincent van Gogh.

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Garden at Hospital - Contemporary Scene

Image online, courtesy University of Seville (a Spanish-language website) and its illustrated biography of Vincent van Gogh.

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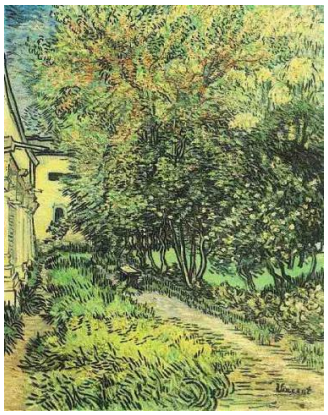

Garden at Hospital - Vincent's Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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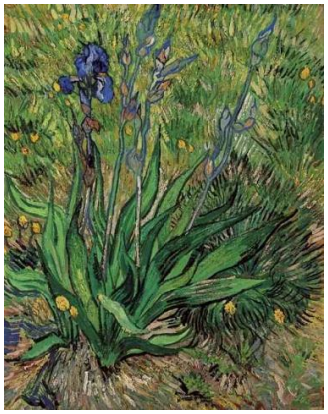

Iris - Vincent's May, 1889 Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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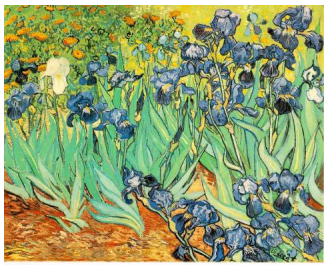

Irises - Vincent's May, 1889 Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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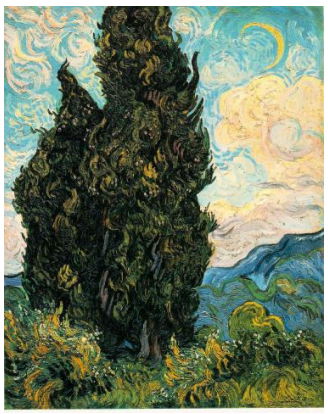

June, 1889 - Vincent's Cypresses

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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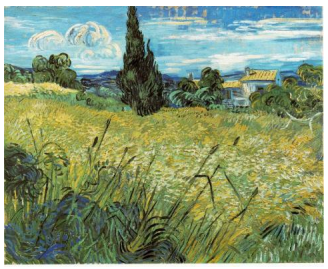

Wheat Field with Cypress - June, 1889

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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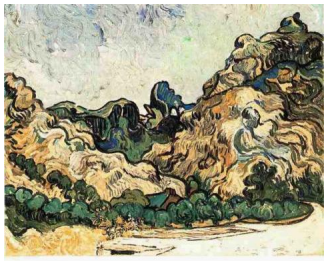

Mountains at Saint-Remy with Dark Cottage

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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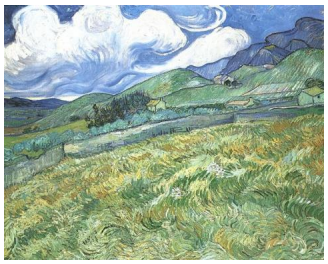

Van Gogh - Mountainous Landscape Behind St. Paul - June, 1889

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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Lilacs - Vincent's May, 1889 Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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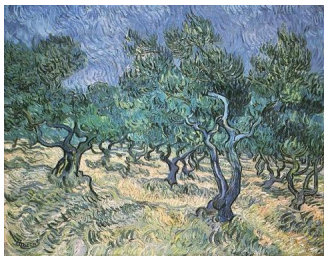

Olive Grove - Vincent's June, 1889 Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.
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Poppies - Vincent's Early June, 1889 Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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Starry Night - Vincent's Famous Painting

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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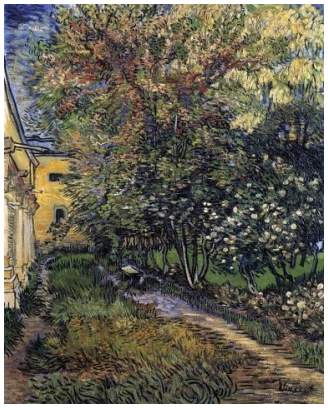

VINCENT at SAINT-REMY

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