

# ■ ART REVIEW GUIDELINES (ESL)

## 1. Introduction

Write the name of the artwork and the artist. Include the year and where it is displayed (museum, gallery, etc.). Give one or two sentences about the background.

*Example:*

\*The Potato Eaters\* is a painting by Vincent van Gogh from 1885. It shows a poor family eating dinner in a small, dark room.

## 2. Description

What do you see in the painting? (people, colours, light, objects) What materials or techniques did the artist use? How does the painting make you feel?

*Useful vocabulary:* dark / bright / warm / cold / peaceful / dramatic / realistic / emotional / powerful / detailed

## 3. Interpretation

What do you think the artist wanted to say? What message or story do you see in the painting? What emotions does it express?

*Useful phrases:* The artist wants to show... / The painting gives the feeling of... / It represents...

## 4. Opinion (Evaluation)

Do you like this artwork? Why or why not? What part do you find most interesting or beautiful? Would you recommend it to others?

*Useful phrases:* I really like this painting because... / The best part is... / I think this work is important because...

## ■■ MODEL ART REVIEW

**The Potato Eaters** (1885) is one of Vincent van Gogh's most powerful early paintings. It shows a poor peasant family eating their evening meal of potatoes under a small oil lamp. The dark colours—brown, green, and grey—create a heavy, serious mood. The people's faces and hands look rough and tired, showing their hard life working on the land.

Van Gogh wanted to paint real life, not something beautiful or ideal. He said that the peasants' rough hands showed they had "earned their food honestly." The light from the lamp focuses our attention on the centre of the table, giving the scene warmth and intimacy even in poverty.

This painting is very different from Van Gogh's later bright works, but it is just as emotional. It teaches us that art can be beautiful even when it shows struggle. Through strong brushstrokes and earthy tones, Van Gogh gives dignity to ordinary people. **The Potato Eaters** remains a moving reminder of humanity, honesty, and everyday life.