

human beings as possible. Among them, the infantry soldier Vassilis Rahautis, from Lamia. According to testimonies, poor Vassilis saved many people, mainly women and children. Shortly before the ship sank, his father was begging him on the phone to abandon the ship and save himself. But he did not! He could not leave his fellow men helpless.

Vassilis, together with 19 of his colleagues, gave the ultimate fight to save as many lives as possible. He lost his life, fighting the raging waves, trying to save a baby, after first saving the mother! Young Vassilis and eighty other people lost their lives on the night of 9th September 2000.

The immense heroism and self-sacrifice that that young man demonstrated will most certainly go down in our history. His memory is eternal and his act a legacy to greek volunteerism.

Unit 4: Vincent Van Gogh

Exercise: Write the meaning, translation and an example of ten unknown words from the song, the viewing notes and the text consulting "word reference":

1. haze = weather: fog = ομίχλη, θόρα αχλός → e.g. The polluted city always had a dirty haze in the air.

2. china = made of china = πορσελάνινος → e.g. The china dolls

are a favourite decoration.

3. ragged

a. = clothing: tattered = κατελιδωμένος, κατελιδωμένος, άθλιος

→ e.g. Norma's heart was touched by the little boy's ragged clothing.

b. = person: wearing rags = κατελιδωμένος, κατελιδωμένος, ραμμένος

→ e.g. The ragged man asked Joan if she could spare a little money.

4. daffodil = yellow flower = κίτρινος, κίτρινος → e.g. The daffodils opened in February this year.

5. absinth = highly-alcoholic green spirit = αψέντι

6. stark = bare, desolate = γυμνός, έρημος, λείος → e.g. The stark landscape did not fill Helen with hope for her new life in this place.

7. harvest = (farming) = θερίσμος, συγκομιδή → e.g. Ben got out of school early in the fall to help his family with the harvest.

8. crop = farming: (sth) cultivated = καλλιέργεια →

e.g. Grandmother's farm always bore crops of corn and tomatoes.

9. foreground = scene: closest part = πρώτο πλάνο, προσηνίο

→ There's a wooden fence in the foreground of the painting.

10. sprig = tree, flower: small branch = κλαδί (κλαδάκι) →

e.g. The slim vase contained a sprig of lavender

11. translucent = semi-transparent = ημιδιαφανής, φωτοδια-
νεπατός → e.g. The walls are translucent, allowing
daylight to come in.

12. amply = well-provided = εναρμυς, εναρμής, ἀφθονός →
e.g. The soldiers were amply supplied with food.

13. volatile = person: quick to anger = ευερέθιστος, ευέριστος →
e.g. You need to approach her carefully; she's very
volatile.

14. lucidity = sanity = διαύγεια, καθαρό μυαλό

**Exercise: Write the meaning, translation and an example
of five unknown words from Van Gogh's letter to his brother
(both extracts) consulting "word reference":**

1. longing = unfulfilled desire = λαχτάρα, ἐπιθυμία, μανιός → e.g.
He was filled with a sudden longing for home.

2. meadow = field for grazing = λιβάδι, βοσκώτονος, λειμῶνας →
e.g. The farmer left the cattle to graze in the meadow.

3. hedge = row of dense shrubs = φράχτης, ἀνὰ θάμνους, φράχτης,
φράχτης → e.g. Ashley spent her Saturday trimming the hedge.

4. hawthorn = thorny shrub = ὑπόταυγος → e.g. A short hawthorn
grew by the entrance of the building.

5. clematis = flowering vine = ὑληματίδα, ὑληματίδα, ἀμνέλιδα,
αχραμνέλιδα, αχραμνέλη

6. elm = tall deciduous tree = πτελέα, φτελιά

7. dusk = twilight = γαῖθρουνό → e.g. Dusk is my favourite time of day.

8. Hurrah! = joy, praise = ἡντῶ, ἡωῶνι → e.g. Hurrah! School is cancelled because of a snowstorm!

9. tidings = news = παντάτα, νέα → e.g. We bring tidings of the king's abdication!

10. endow (sb) with (sth) = give abilities, qualities = ἡποικίζω, ὑπομεύω, εὐλογοῦ ὑπομεύω, χαρίζω ὑπομεύω → e.g. Shirley decided that as God had seen fit to endow her with a great singing voice, she would become a singer.

11. penetrate (sth) = pierce = διαπερνῶ, διατρυνῶ, εἰσχωρῶ ἑε ὑπο, διεισδύω ἑε ὑπο → e.g. The bullet penetrated the wall.

12. stifled = suffocated, suppressed = ναυ αἰσχυρῶ, ναυ νιγεται, ναυ νιγεται

13. moor = heath, wasteland = ξεροτόπος → e.g. The farmer dug some peat out of the moor.

14. the yoke of (sth/sb) = burden = ἵγος → The employees found themselves under the yoke of a slave-driving boss.

15. flicker = light, image: waver

16. supplant (sb/sth) = replace, usurp = ἀπαρξίνω, ἀρπάζω, ἀντικαθιστῶ, υποκαθιστῶ → e.g. The imposter deceived the royal court and eventually supplanted the king

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MY VINCENT VAN GOGH

Vincent van Gogh was a world-renowned painter, who is loved by many, both artists and philistines. He had a strong influence on western art and culture, although he did not get the recognition he deserved during his lifetime, but rather posthumously. Be that as it may, he came to be an artistic prodigy and one of the most important personalities of the nineteenth century.

The artist had a trying life. Born in Zundert, Netherlands, and brought up in a religious environment, he commenced his career as an artist at the age of sixteen, when he started working for an art dealer in The Hague. He received great support from his brother throughout his life and the two had a unique relationship and adored each other up until Vincent's death. In the following years, the painter took up lessons from Anton Mauve in Hague, moved to Paris and then to Arles, serialim. During those years, he encountered and collaborated with a number of famous artists and discovered pointilism, a technique which was imprinted in his own expression style and was implemented in many of his works. That and all the ways in which he expressed himself artistically led him to be considered a post-impressionist, contrary to the impressionist style which characterised his contemporaries.

Howbeit, Van Gogh was facing serious mental issues, which had disastrous consequences for him. He was quick-tempered, irascible and unstable. After an incident with Gauguin, a fellow artist and mate of his, he ended up cutting a part of his own ear off and after that his lunacy was ever deteriorating. He was sent in an asylum in Saint-Rémy, being diagnosed with depression and presumably also suffering from epilepsy. While staying there, he produced circa one hundred and fifty paintings, one of which is also the only work of his that he managed to sell. Later, he left the clinic and headed to Auvers-sur-Oise, where he was treated by Dr Gachet, the namesake of one of his paintings. When his condition aggravated and after one too many fits of madness, he shot himself in the chest and ultimately expired, with his brother at his side. His brother's wife, after also losing her husband, took on a mission to get Vincent's art the recognition it deserved. Hence, it is her that we owe this extraordinary legacy to.

All in all, Vincent van Gogh has left his mark in the world of art, bequeathing us with an immense and important heritage. His reputation precedes him, his passion for art is perpetuated through time and therefore it is no wonder why he is the Netherlands' pride and joy.