

Name _____

American Gothic: Unveiling the Story Behind the Painting

Short Answer Key

1. The farmhouse in "American Gothic" represents the Gothic architectural style with its steeply pitched roof, pointed arches, and decorative details. Its significance lies in inspiring the title of the painting and contributing to the overall theme of rural American identity.
2. The subjects in the painting are Grant Wood's sister, Nan Wood Graham, and his dentist, Dr. Byron McKeeby. Wood chose them as models because he believed their distinctive features exemplified the strong, practical, and hardworking people of rural America.
3. The stern expressions of the farmer and his daughter have been interpreted as symbolic of their somber and unyielding character, reflecting the hardships faced by rural communities during the Great Depression.
4. "American Gothic" won third place and a gold medal at the Art Institute of Chicago's annual exhibition in 1930, which brought it recognition and fame.
5. "American Gothic" has been parodied, imitated, and referenced in various forms of media, including cartoons, advertisements, film, and literature. Examples can include "American Gothic" reimagined with famous characters or in humorous situations.

