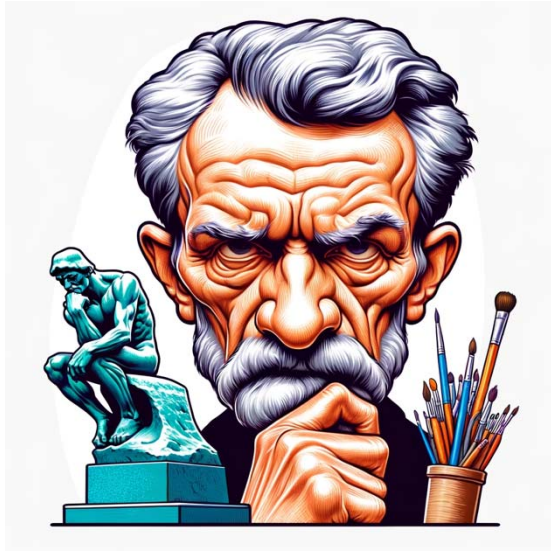


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Auguste Rodin: Master of Sculpture



Auguste Rodin, a renowned French sculptor, left an indelible mark on the world of art through his innovative approach to sculpture and his ability to capture the human form in all its complexity. In this reading passage, we will delve into Rodin's life and his notable sculptures.

### Early Life and Artistic Journey

Auguste Rodin was born in Paris, France, in 1840. His interest in art became apparent at a young age, and he pursued formal training at the Petite École, a school for decorative arts. His dedication to art led him to Italy, where he drew inspiration from classical sculptures and the works of Michelangelo.

### The Thinker: A Symbol of Contemplation

One of Rodin's most iconic sculptures is "The Thinker." Created initially as part of a larger work titled "The Gates of Hell," this powerful sculpture depicts a man in deep contemplation. "The Thinker" has become a symbol of introspection and the human capacity for reflection.

### The Burghers of Calais: An Expression of Heroism

Rodin's sculpture "The Burghers of Calais" commemorates a significant event in the Hundred Years' War. The sculpture portrays six prominent citizens of Calais who volunteered to sacrifice themselves to save their city. Each figure reflects the emotional struggle and sacrifice inherent in their decision.

### The Kiss: A Celebration of Love

Rodin's "The Kiss" is a sensual and passionate sculpture that captures a couple locked in an intimate embrace. Originally titled "Francesca da Rimini," the sculpture portrays the tragic lovers from Dante's "Divine Comedy." "The Kiss" celebrates the universal theme of love and desire.

### Balzac: A Controversial Portrait

Rodin's sculpture of the famous writer Honoré de Balzac was met with controversy when it was unveiled. Rodin's unconventional portrayal of Balzac, draped in a voluminous robe, deviated from traditional portraiture. However, it later gained recognition for its boldness and artistic merit.

### Legacy and Influence

Auguste Rodin's innovative approach to sculpture, characterized by a focus on capturing the human psyche and emotion, had a profound impact on the art world. His sculptures challenged conventions and paved the way for future generations of artists.