

Name _____

Enigma of the Pearl

Short Answer Key

1. The central mystery is the identity of the girl and the thoughts and emotions hidden behind her enigmatic expression.
2. The pearl earring is described as mysterious and bright, representing a source of light and intrigue in the painting.
3. The poem describes the girl's expression as soft with a hint of a smile, which is significant because it adds to the enigmatic and captivating nature of the painting.
4. Vermeer uses light and shadow to create a golden glow in the room and to emphasize the girl's features, adding depth and atmosphere to the painting.
5. Answers may vary, but students may interpret that Vermeer wanted to convey the allure of mystery and capture a moment of timeless beauty. The painting may make some feel intrigued and curious about the girl's story.

