

Name _____

Enigma of the Pearl

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary, but some students may speculate that the girl could be a model, a family member, or even an imaginary character. The story behind her expression and the pearl earring could involve a moment of reflection, a hint of a secret, or simply the capture of her beauty.
2. The use of shadow and light adds depth and atmosphere to the painting, creating a sense of mystery and intrigue. It may evoke feelings of curiosity and wonder in viewers.
3. The poem refers to the pearl earring as "mysterious and bright" to highlight its significance as a symbol of intrigue and light in the painting. Beyond its physical appearance, it may symbolize the allure of the unknown and the beauty that can be found in even the smallest details.
4. "Girl with a Pearl Earring" captures a moment frozen in time through the girl's expression and the use of light and shadow. It is considered timeless because it continues to captivate viewers and spark their imagination, inviting them to create their own stories and interpretations.

