

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Raphael: The Master of Renaissance Art

Raphael, whose full name was Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, was a renowned Italian artist of the Renaissance period. Born on April 6, 1483, in the city of Urbino, Raphael is celebrated for his exceptional talent and contributions to the world of art. In this reading passage, we will delve into the life, works, and enduring legacy of this remarkable artist.



### Early Life and Apprenticeship

Raphael's journey as an artist began at a young age. He was fortunate to receive early artistic training in his hometown of Urbino. Later, he moved to Perugia, where he honed his skills under the guidance of the painter Pietro Perugino.

### The Influence of Renaissance Masters

During the Renaissance, Italy was a hub of artistic activity, and Raphael had the opportunity to study the works of other great artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. This exposure enriched his artistic development and inspired his unique style.

### The Vatican Commissions

Raphael's career took a significant turn when he received commissions from the Vatican. His most notable project was the decoration of the Stanze di Raffaello (Raphael Rooms) in the Vatican Palace. These frescoes depicted various themes, including theology, philosophy, and poetry, and they showcased Raphael's exceptional talent for composition and use of color.

### The School of Athens

One of the most iconic frescoes in the Raphael Rooms is "The School of Athens." In this masterpiece, Raphael depicted a gathering of ancient philosophers and scholars, with Plato and Aristotle at the center. The painting not only exemplifies Raphael's mastery of perspective and proportion but also pays tribute to the great thinkers of classical antiquity.

