

Name _____

Whistler's Silent Portrait

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary, but some students may suggest that Whistler's painting challenges traditional portraiture by focusing on the quiet and introspective side of his mother, rather than a more conventional portrayal. It conveys the idea that motherhood encompasses depth, wisdom, and moments of silent contemplation.
2. Answers may vary, but some students may suggest that Whistler's choice emphasizes the timeless and contemplative nature of the moment, highlighting his mother's inner thoughts and dignity.
3. Answers may vary, but some students may suggest that Whistler's mother appears to be experiencing a sense of calm, wisdom, and contemplation, as well as a deep connection with her own thoughts.

