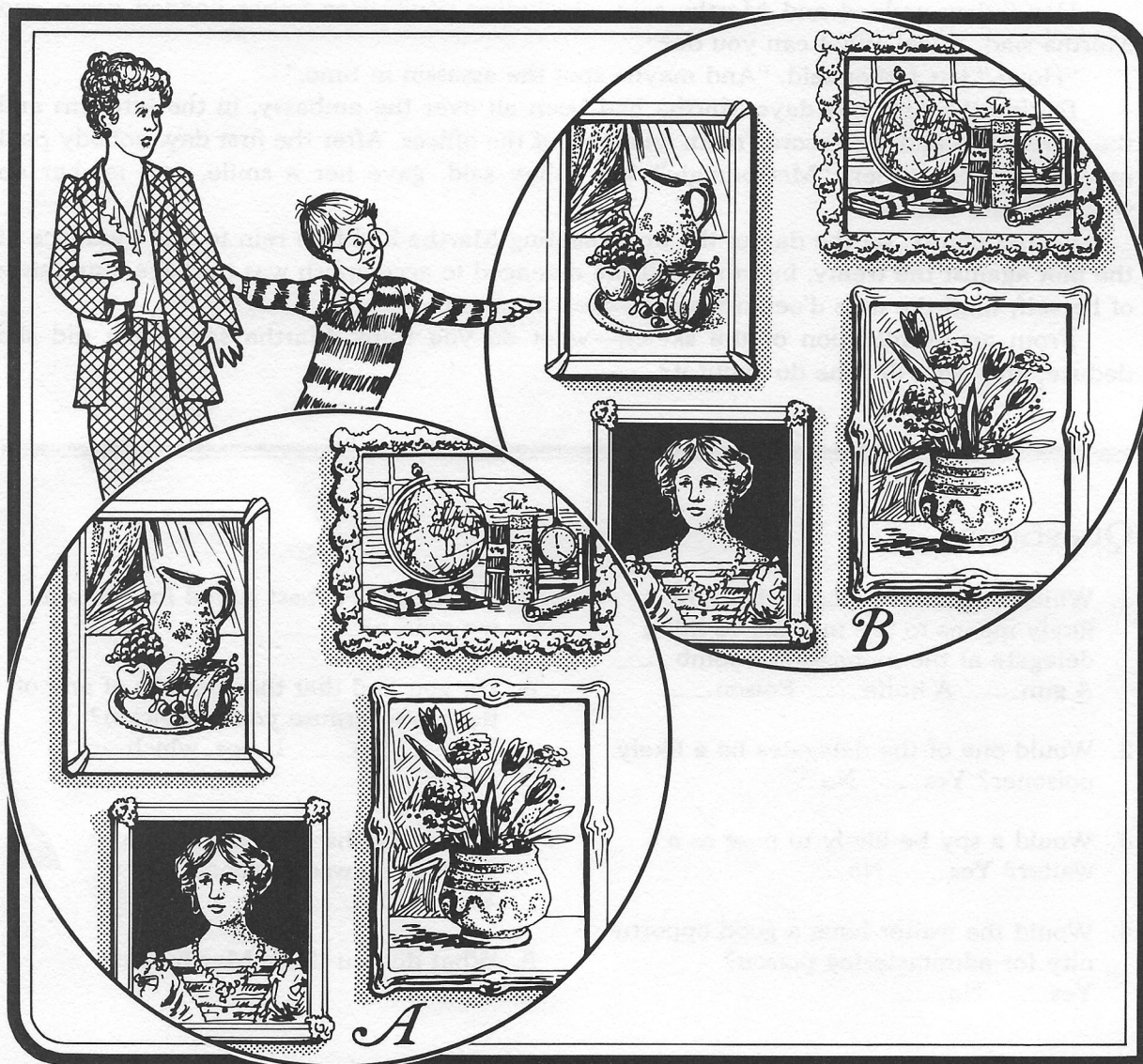


PICTURE GALLERY



Whiz McGonnigle's mother loved picture galleries, and whenever there was a local exhibit she went several times and took Whiz with her. She had hopes that someday he'd be an artist, and although he showed talent, most people thought he'd either be a policeman or a bicycle racer. There was also a possibility that he'd become a scientist and discover a quick cure for a broken leg.

In due time the traveling exhibit of 18th and 19th-century American painters came to town and was shown at the local Whistling Gallery (they'd meant to call it the Whistler Gallery, but somebody got mixed up). Because of the importance of the show, everybody who could hold a paintbrush brought paint box and easel and sat down to copy.

Sketch A shows a section of the gallery as it was on the morning that Whiz's mother brought him to see it. He studied it with interest, but the second time he went with her, right after school was out, he got excited. "Look, Mom," he said. "Look—that one got stolen!"

What did he see?

Questions

1. Can a good artist duplicate a painting with sufficient skill to fool the average viewer? Yes____ No____ Probably____
2. Could an expert spot a good copy as against an original by looking at it on a gallery wall? Yes____ No____ Not with absolute certainty____
3. Could an expert spot a copy by close and careful study? Yes____ No____ Probably____
4. Can you tell how old a painting is by finding out the age of the canvas it's painted on? Yes____ No____ Probably____
5. Are spectrographic and X-ray analyses sure proof of the age of a painting? Yes____ No____ Probably____
6. Which painting did Whiz point out as false?

Solution on page 65