

Child prodigy

Before you watch

1 Choose the correct definition of 'prodigy'.

- a a young person who receives help or training from an older experienced person
- b a young person who has a natural ability to do something extremely well
- c a young person who is more intelligent than other children of the same age

2 Can you name any famous child prodigies from the present or past?

3 Look at the title of the video. What do you think the video is about?

'British child prodigy compared to Picasso'

While you watch

4 Watch the video and check your answer to exercise 3. Which prodigies does the reporter mention at the beginning?

5 Choose the correct option.

1 Kieron Williamson is ...

- a 6 years old.
- b 7 years old.

2 His paintings have sold for a total of ...

- a \$20,000.
- b \$50,000.

3 He was inspired to start painting when he went ...

- a on holiday to Cornwall and Devon.
- b on a school trip to an art gallery.

4 When asked how he feels about being compared to Picasso, Kieron replies ...

- a 'All right'.
- b 'Excited'

5 His parents feel ...

- a incredibly proud.
- b totally amazed.

6 Interest in Kieron grew in the United States after ...

- a an exhibition of his work in New York.
- b a TV news report on the Today show.

7 The painting Kieron would most like to own is ...

- a The Mona Lisa.
- b He doesn't have a favourite.

6 Match the types of painting with the definitions.

landscape portrait still life

- 1 a painting of objects such as flowers or fruit _____
- 2 a painting of an area of land _____
- 3 a painting of a person _____

7 Watch the video again and answer the questions.

- 1 Which type of painting from exercise 6 does Kieron paint?
- 2 Describe some of the things you see in the paintings.
- 3 Who says 'It's my job to make sure he's happy and balanced.'

After you watch

8 Answer the questions.

- 1 Which types of painting from exercise 6 do you like most?
- 2 Do you like Kieron's paintings?
- 3 Which of his pictures do you like best?

9 Read the news story below and answer the questions with other students.

In November last year Kieron sold a collection of sixteen paintings in just fourteen minutes at auction. It earned him £18,000 but he won't be able to spend the money until he's older. There are now almost 700 people on a waiting list to buy one of Kieron Williamson's works.

- 1 Do you think Kieron should continue selling his paintings or wait until he's older?
- 2 How should his parents help him?
- 3 Will he be the next Picasso?

Glossary

ability (*noun*) - being able to do something

auction (*noun*) - event where things are sold to the people offering the most money

inspire (*verb*) - to give someone the idea for a piece of work

intelligence (*noun*) - the ability to understand and think about things, and to gain and use knowledge

lad (*noun*) - boy

paintbrush (*noun*) - a brush used for painting

proud (*adjective*) - feel happy about your or another person's achievements

raw (*adjective*) - natural