

1. Who was David?

Jacques-Louis David was a French painter who supported the French revolution. He had an injury on his face that made him had a difficulty to speak with people. He was influential in art, especially in neoclassical style of painting. He was a friend of Marat. After his friend died, he drew a picture called "The death of Marat" which became his masterpiece. However, this masterpiece dishonored him and made his body not allowed to be buried in France.

2. Who was Marat?

Jean-Paul Marat was a French physician, and scientist but he was most recognized as a radical journalist and political. He had played an important role in the French revolution. He has his own newspaper, *L'Ami du peuple* or "The Friend of the People". He was the one who supported French to be republic. He fought against the Girondins which he believed to be the republicanism enemy. He was killed by Charlotte Corday.

3. Why did Corday kill Marat?

Charlotte Corday was one of the Girondins' supporters. She murdered Marat because she believed that Marat was responsible for September Massacre. Moreover, she was afraid of civil war and thought that Marat's death would stop violence. At her trial, she said that "I killed one man to save 100,000."

4. Why does Simon Schama call *The Death of Marat* a "beautiful lie"? How is it beautiful? How is it a lie?

Despite showing the lie, this very beautiful picture in neoclassical style had affected the picture's viewer of the kind of people Marat is. This picture was made perfectly beautiful. The shape of body and the light smooth the picture. The beauty of this picture is that it depicts death as a way of peace. Reminding to the dead Jesus, the figure gives us a sense of kindness, devoting for the good of people. It made Marat a martyr of French revolution. However, it is also a lie. Jean-Paul Marat, in the eyes of French, was actually not a saint, but a monster that killed hundreds of lives. The picture also twists the facts. For example, David changed the words in the letter to be "I am just too unhappy to deserve your kindness", but actually the paper is a list of traitors that had escaped.

5. Describe your own aesthetic of beauty. (Remember to write using only your own words, i.e. don't copy from a friend.)

To determine what's beautiful or not, I have my own aesthetic of beauty. First, the shape of body or the external characteristics has to be appropriate, not disordered or distorted. Second, the color has to draw my interest, no matter it's dim or bright. Third, there must be something to be considered. Something without any mystery has no long draw my attention. Then, I will get bored. When I have no interest in it, it will become nothing to me that I will be indifferent with

all the beautiful factors. It will be no longer seen as beautiful. Last, it has to make me feel happy to see. Since, if I am not happy with things, I will try to avoid those things. Also if I am happy with them, I will try to see them more and consider them to be beautiful.