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1. Who was David?

David was a dominant and influential French painter who is one of the central figures of Neoclassicism. Besides, David was an active sympathy with the French Revolution and became the painter of the Revolution. He also has famous paintings that influence the development of French painting.

2. Who was Marat?

Marat was a radical journalist who was influential during the French Revolution. His own newspaper "Friend of the people" yelled and cursed the enemies of the Revolution. He also played a leading role in the Reign of Terror. Marat was murdered by Charlotte Corday in his bathtub.

3. Why did Corday kill Marat?

Corday killed Marat because she held Marat responsible for the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution. She believed that Marat would lead France to civil war. She claimed that his death would end the violence and save the lives of 100,000.

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

Because this painting shows the ideal image but not show the correct situation on that day. It's beautiful that *The Death of Marat* is designed to memorialize a hero and seen as a martyr from the French Revolution but it's a lie. There are many lie stories in this painting. In the painting, Marat has an ideal figure but he had a skin disease and not handsome in fact. The knife in the painting should be on the floor instead of Marat's chest. Corday didn't give Marat a note that is in his hand but she gave him a list of traitors etc.

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

My own aesthetic of beauty is natural beauty and simple beauty. Everything has its own beauty and does not have to be decorated much. It is about feeling and the worth of it.