

1. Who was David?

Jacques-Louis David was a French painter. He is also known as “David with the swollen cheek.” Later, David became a supporter of the French Revolution. When Marat was killed by Corday, he painted a picture to commemorate Marat as a saint. He called that piece of art “The Death of Marat.” That picture became his masterpiece. David is probably the most influential French painter, and “The Death of Marat” is probably the most powerful image in French History.

2. Who was Marat?

Jean-Paul Marat was a leader during French Revolution period. He is renowned for his killing of thousands of people whom he said was “enemies of the people.” He was killed by Corday in his bath tub. He had skin disease which caused him to itch.

3. Why did Corday kill Marat?

Charlotte Corday killed Marat because she believed that it was not right for him to kill people. She believed that Marat was responsible for the September Massacres. Later, she states 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?

Simon Schama calls “The Death of Marat” a “beautiful lie” because the painting represents the goodness of Marat which Schama believes does not exist. David, the painter of this image, gave Marat a whole new look. David portrayed Marat as a hero, not an assassin. If we take a look at the piece of paper on the box in front of the bath tub, we will notice that it is a letter that Marat was about to send to a widow of a soldier along with some donation money. Another thing that David “lied” about Marat was his skin. Marat had rashes on his back and shoulders. In this painting, however, David removed it. He gave Marat a smooth skin tone. If someone does not pay attention to the history of this painting, he would consider Marat as a saint, not a killer.

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

I would describe the aesthetic of beauty, concerning works of arts, to contain harmony and balance. Also, the painting that has the aesthetic of beauty should be able to tell the viewer what the painter is trying to say. It should drive emotion to the viewer.