

## Easy Art Projects 2

### Be an Art Detective

This painting is by the artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti



The lady in the painting is holding a fruit.

- Do you know the name of the fruit? Have you tasted it before?
- There are 2 main clues in the painting which help to tell a story - can you guess what they are?
- Read or listen to the story of Persephone and Hades (you can find an audio version on BBC Schools radio - see below)
- Draw or paint your own picture of this story. Choose a character from the story and use symbols or objects to give the viewer clues. Or draw or paint whatever interested you most about the story.

Parent tip : Extension: Exploring symbols in art/discussing paintings: Symbolism is used a lot in art. One of the meanings of the fruit (pomegranate) in this painting is the earth, dormant in Winter, growing in Spring. Light or lack of it, is symbolised by the lamp.

One artist (Philip Colbert) uses the symbol of a lobster to represent himself in his artwork!. What creature (or thing?) could be your symbol - or represent you in a painting?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/ks2-primary-history-ancient-greece-persephone-and-hades/z4qyvg8>



What clues or symbols can you see in these paintings by Spanish artists Alonso Cano and Pablo Picasso?



What do you think of these paintings?



Philip Colbert in front of his artwork. The lobster behind him is in a blue suit.

Parent tips for Exploring symbols in art/discussing paintings:

Common symbols in western art include doves which represent peace, or god's messengers.

Halos and wings as well as certain colours help us to recognise gods, angels, saints etc.

Many symbols like these are linked to religious beliefs. The Greeks used pomegranates to

symbolise fertility and the earth. All these clues help us to understand the story or ideas

behind a painting or artwork. It is like a visual short-hand! Some contemporary artists have

used objects which are very familiar to us (eg brand symbols or logos) in the same way.

They can help to convey the ideas behind the artwork.