

7th grade

Assigned novel: *The Mona Lisa Vanishes* by Nicholas Day

Directions:

1. During and after reading, answer the following journal questions.
2. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, complete sentences, and mechanics are important and will count as part of the grade.
3. All answers must be typed in a google doc from your school-issued google account and shared with or emailed to Mrs. Harper at aharper@bishopflaget.org. Any other formats or methods of sharing will result in the assignment being rejected.
4. All answers should be original student work and writing. **Any AI-generated responses or plagiarism will not be accepted and will result in a zero for the assignment.**

1. The book goes into a lot of detail about Leonardo da Vinci. In your opinion and using evidence from his notebooks described in the book, what was the most important contribution he made to the world, excluding the Mona Lisa?

2. How do you think the heist would have been different if there would have been cell phones, the internet, and social media? Describe.

3. Why do you think the author chose to weave Leonardo da Vinci's story into the story of the theft of the Mona Lisa? Do you think it was effective to use the flashbacks?

4. Without the theft of the Mona Lisa, it's possible she may be just another painting hanging on the wall in a gallery, just like Lisa Gherardini was just another woman living in Italy. Why do you think people continue to be drawn to the portrait?

5. Pretend you are Leonardo da Vinci. Write an entry in one of his notebooks about how he feels about painting the Mona Lisa.

6. Do you agree with the punishment given to Vincenzo Perugia? Do you agree he was a hero for returning the painting to Italy??

7. Compare the Bertillon system of identifying criminals with the fingerprinting system. What makes the Bertillon system less effective? Use details from the book to support your answer.

8. What was the most interesting part of the book? Why? (Make sure to include the section and page numbers.)

9. What about this book drew you in and kept you reading? Be specific.

10. Why did Nicholas Day choose to write about the Mona Lisa art heist?