

## Mr Van Gogh-Answers

1. It starts at the end of the story. It foreshadows what occurs.
2. Is it 56? The frequent use of the name hammers the association home.
3. Frank=honest, truthful, Reprieve= let off, give respite to, Wilcox= Anglo.  
In its entirety the name sounds like a Western gunslinger's perhaps?  
Souness has similarities to sourness or soulness or even soonest- i.e. haste.
4. Mad artist.
5. "With his arms outstretched like a cross."
6. The crucifixion/martyrdom of Christ. Another persecuted individual...
7. A bridge.
8. He has a war pension.
9. Personal expression.
10. Grey hair, grey shirts, (gaberdine).
11. Third person
12. He's a young boy so he is ingenuous and impressionable. He observes the adults objectively. His father is a parson. The story is told in retrospect. These events are remembered. He may now be an adult.
13. His only problem according to the parson is that "He'd made a commitment to something which other people couldn't understand." Unlike politics or horse-racing.
14. People who are too intense or who show their feelings scare off others?
15. To widen the bridge to accommodate a second lane.
16. The bridge represents 'progress' but that's ironic, it symbolises societal needs/urban development.
17. March. The march of progress- geddit?
18. Homage is dutiful reverence or acknowledgement of superiority.

19. This simile is accentuated with assonance. Clay is grey. Mortal man is made of clay. Artists/sculptors/potters fashion things with clay.
20. It is imaginative, graphic-it conjures up a picture, facetious or gently mocking.
21. "Just as we take the train to Tarascon or Rouen, we take death to reach a star." An aphorism is a pithy, wise saying.
22. Only by death can we transcend/ escape the restrictions our lives put on us. Death offers our spirits the chance of immortality or greatness.
23. "The fire and life upon the walls and ceiling". The display of colours.
24. Rainbow Johnson. Connotation of a spectrum of colours.
25. Concrete/literal description of the demolition. A metaphor 'stringy' and three similes. An extremely descriptive blend of literal and figurative imagery.
26. The similes are fresh, eclectic, steaming, visceral. They are not cliché so they stir our imaginations to respond.
27. He wants to do justice in words to his subject, an extraordinary visual artist who showed us the world in a new and technicoloured way with paint.
28. Is society able to develop without crushing individuality? Are we fair to loners or to people who are 'different' to us? Is N.Z. a land where artists or individuals are recognized/ respected/understood.
29. It is richly descriptive both figuratively and literally. There is an abundance of colour. He looks at the familiar, e.g. the bungalow's demolition, in a new way (although the similes are rather surreal).
30. Owen Marshall's books are concerned with NZ and deal with NZ issues. He treats writing as an art. He experiments with different styles and always takes great care of the words he uses. However his fiction has a limited audience. NZ's top short story writer cannot make enough money from his writing alone to make a living. His books are appreciated by NZ readers of literary fiction but they do not have mass market appeal. Van Gogh shot himself; Owen Marshall opted to spend most of his career so far teaching...