

EPISODE 5

Boy Bitten by a Lizard

by Caravaggio

Highlights

Caravaggio's painting contains a lesson to the viewer about the transience of youth, the perils of sensual pleasure, and the precariousness of life.

Questions to Consider

1. How do you react to the painting? Does your impression change after the first glance?
2. What elements of the painting give it a sense of intimacy?
3. Do you share Januszczak's sympathies with the lizard, rather than the boy? Why or why not?

Other Works Featured

Salome with the Head of St. John the Baptist (1607-1610), Caravaggio

Young Bacchus (1593), Caravaggio

The Fortune Teller (ca. 1595), Caravaggio

The Cardsharps (ca. 1594), Caravaggio

The Taking of Christ (1602), Caravaggio

The Lute Player (ca. 1596), Caravaggio

Contarelli Chapel paintings, Church of San Luigi dei Francesi:

The Calling of St. Matthew, *The Martyrdom of St. Matthew*,

The Inspiration of St. Matthew (1597-1602), Caravaggio

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist (1608), Caravaggio

The Sacrifice of Isaac (1601-02), Caravaggio

David (1609-10), Caravaggio

Bacchus (ca. 1596), Caravaggio

Boy with a Fruit Basket (1593), Caravaggio

St. Jerome (1605-1606), Caravaggio

A Table Laden with Flowers and Fruit (ca. 1600-10), Master of the Hartford Still-Life



ca. 1595-1600 (oil on canvas)
National Gallery, London

EPISODE 6

Mona Lisa

by Leonardo da Vinci

Highlights

A robbery and attempted forgery in 1911 helped propel *Mona Lisa* to its position as the most famous painting in the world.

Questions to Consider

1. Do you find *Mona Lisa* particularly compelling as a painting?
2. Can you think of other artworks that have inspired tchotchkes such as ashtrays and refrigerator magnets, as *Mona Lisa* has? How do those products affect your appreciation of the original work?
3. Do you know of other famous forgeries or stolen pieces of art? What effects do you think these had on the artists' reputations, the art community, the public, and the works themselves?

Other Works Featured

Self-portrait in red chalk (1512-15), Leonardo da Vinci

Ginevra de' Benci (ca. 1474/78), Leonardo da Vinci

Madonna Benois (1475-78), Leonardo da Vinci

The Last Supper (1495-98), Leonardo da Vinci



ca. 1503-06 (oil on wood panel)
Louvre, Paris