



Vincent Van Gogh:

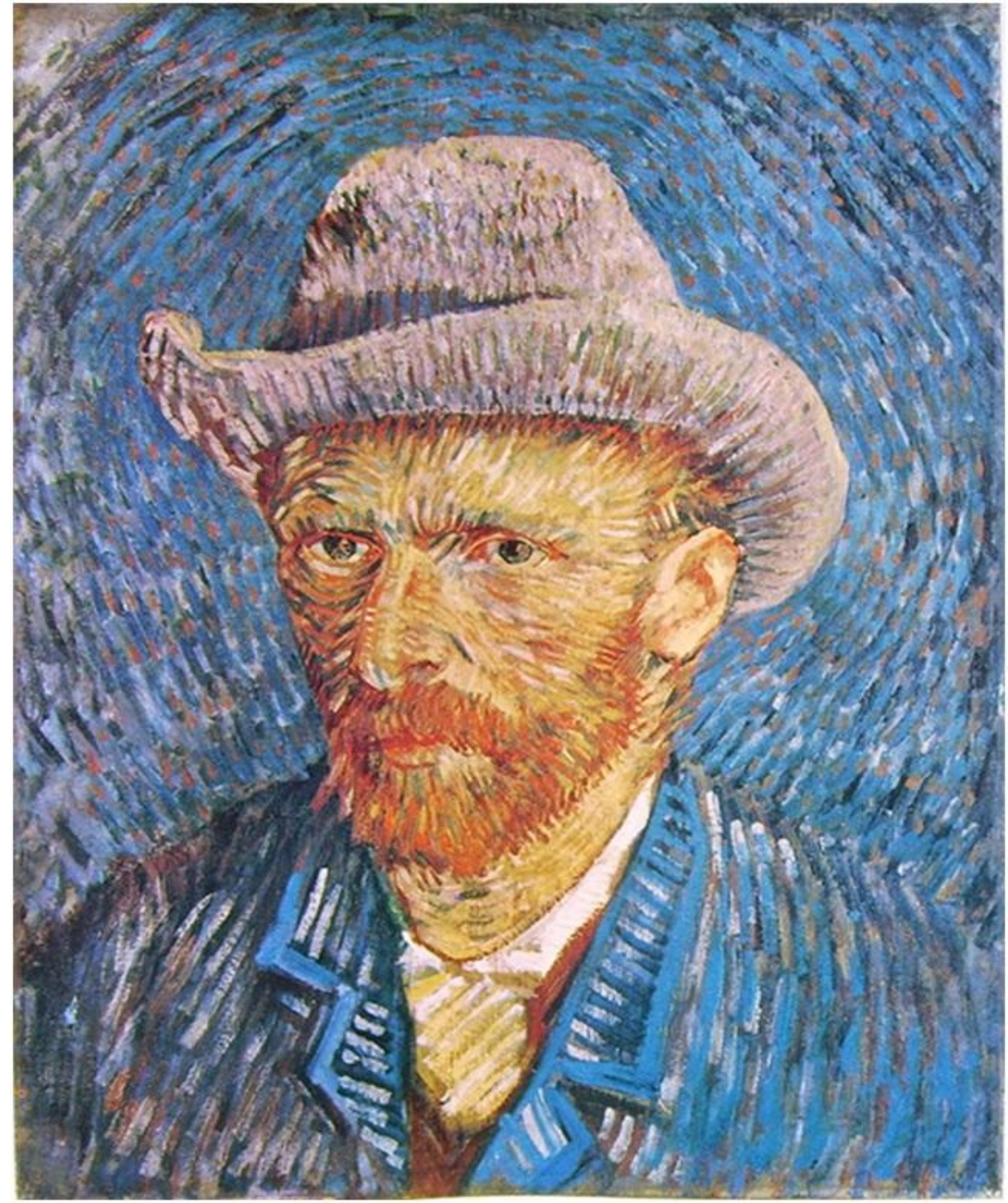
A CLIL

Lesson in English
Teacher Sara Fasolino

(EN) Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. His life was intense and difficult, marked by poverty and severe mental health struggles. He was largely unsuccessful during his lifetime, selling only one painting.

He relied heavily on his younger brother, **Theo van Gogh**, for financial and emotional support. Their correspondence (letters) gives us incredible insight into his thoughts and artistic process. A key period was his time in Arles (France), where he dreamed of starting an artists' community. He famously invited Paul Gauguin to join him, but their relationship ended in a disastrous argument, after which Van Gogh infamously cut off part of his own ear.

In just over a decade, he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings. His style is characterized by bold colors, dramatic brushwork, and emotional honesty.



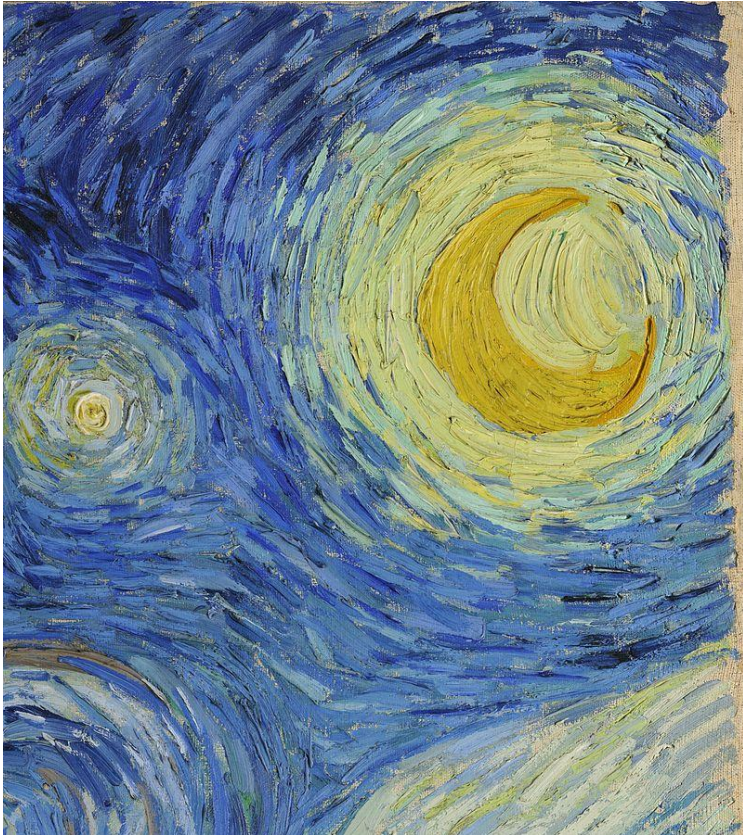
Part 2: Masterpiece Analysis: "The Starry Night"

EN "The Starry Night" (1889) is perhaps Van Gogh's most famous painting. He painted it while he was a patient at the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, following his mental breakdown. It depicts the view from his asylum window, but it was painted primarily from memory and imagination. The painting is not a realistic depiction of the night sky; it is an internal landscape. It is a powerful expression of his inner turmoil, his search for spirituality, and his overwhelming connection to the cosmos. He used the landscape to express his deepest feelings.

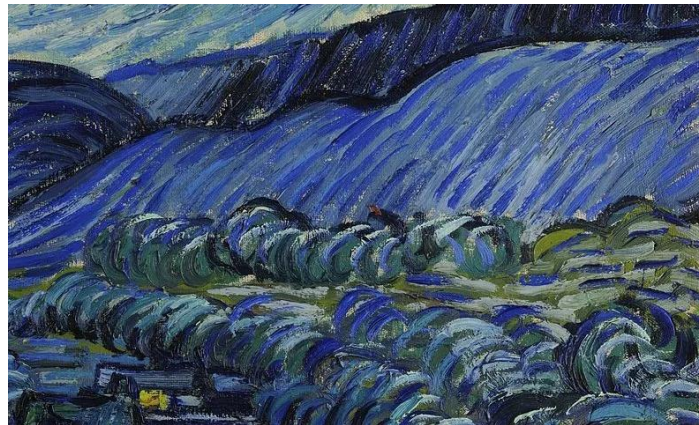


(EN) The painting is divided into three parts.

1.The Sky: The sky is the most dominant and dynamic part. It is filled with intense, swirling clouds of cosmic energy. The crescent moon and the eleven stars (perhaps a biblical reference) shine with an exaggerated, halo-like light. This celestial activity represents the chaotic, powerful, and almost divine force of nature and reflects the artist's own emotional state.



2. The Village: In the background, a quiet, peaceful village sleeps under the dark hills. The only sharp, vertical element is the church steeple, which points towards the sky but seems small and disconnected from the power of the cosmos. The village represents humanity, order, and tranquility, in stark contrast to the wildness of the sky.

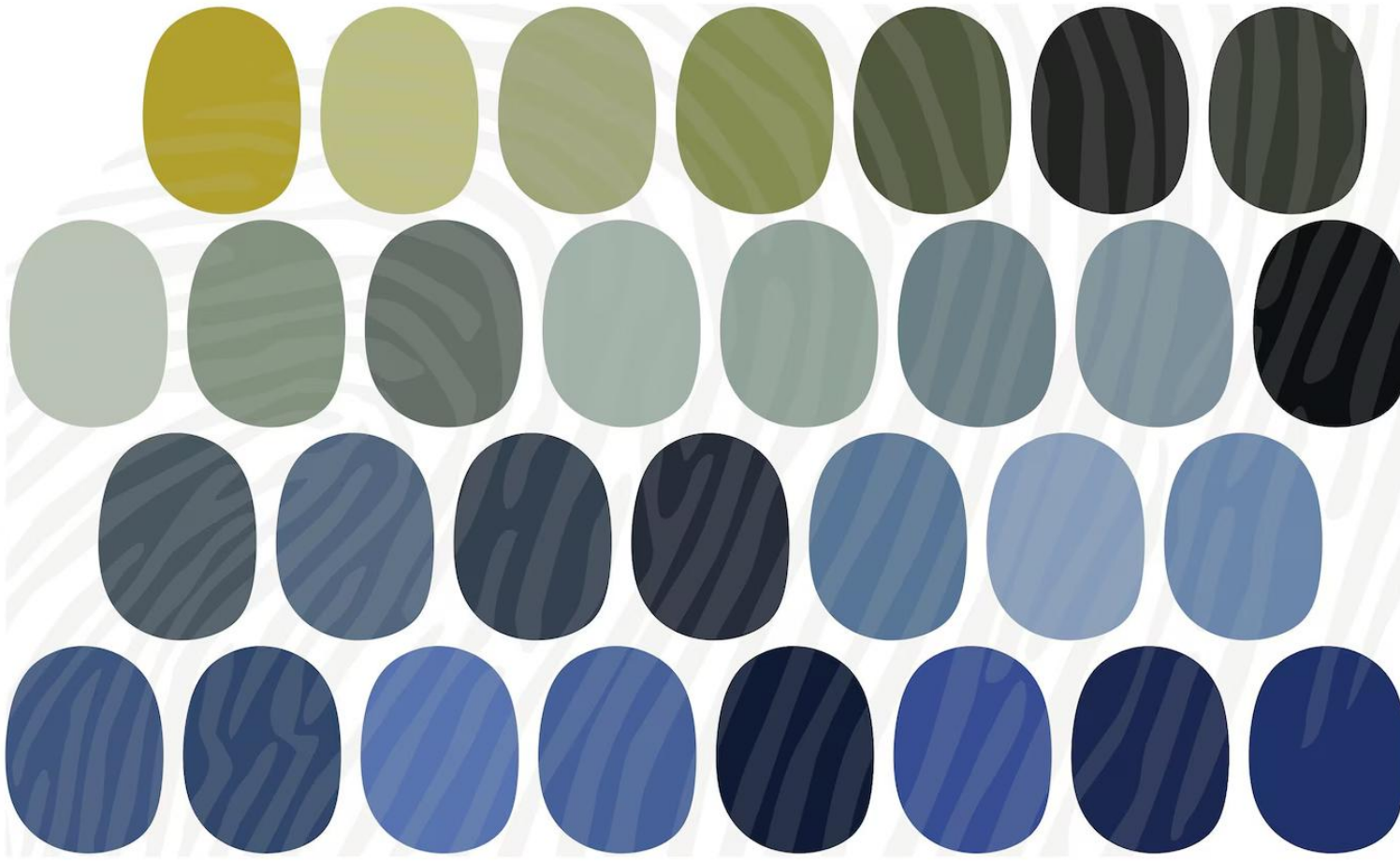


3.The Cypress Tree: In the foreground on the left, a massive, dark cypress tree rises like a black flame. It dominates the composition and acts as a bridge, connecting the earth (life) with the chaotic sky (spirituality/turmoil). In Mediterranean culture, the cypress is often a symbol of death and mourning, but also of eternity and rebirth. It may represent Van Gogh's own feelings of loneliness and his yearning for the infinite.



Starry night

PROCREATE COLOR PALETTE



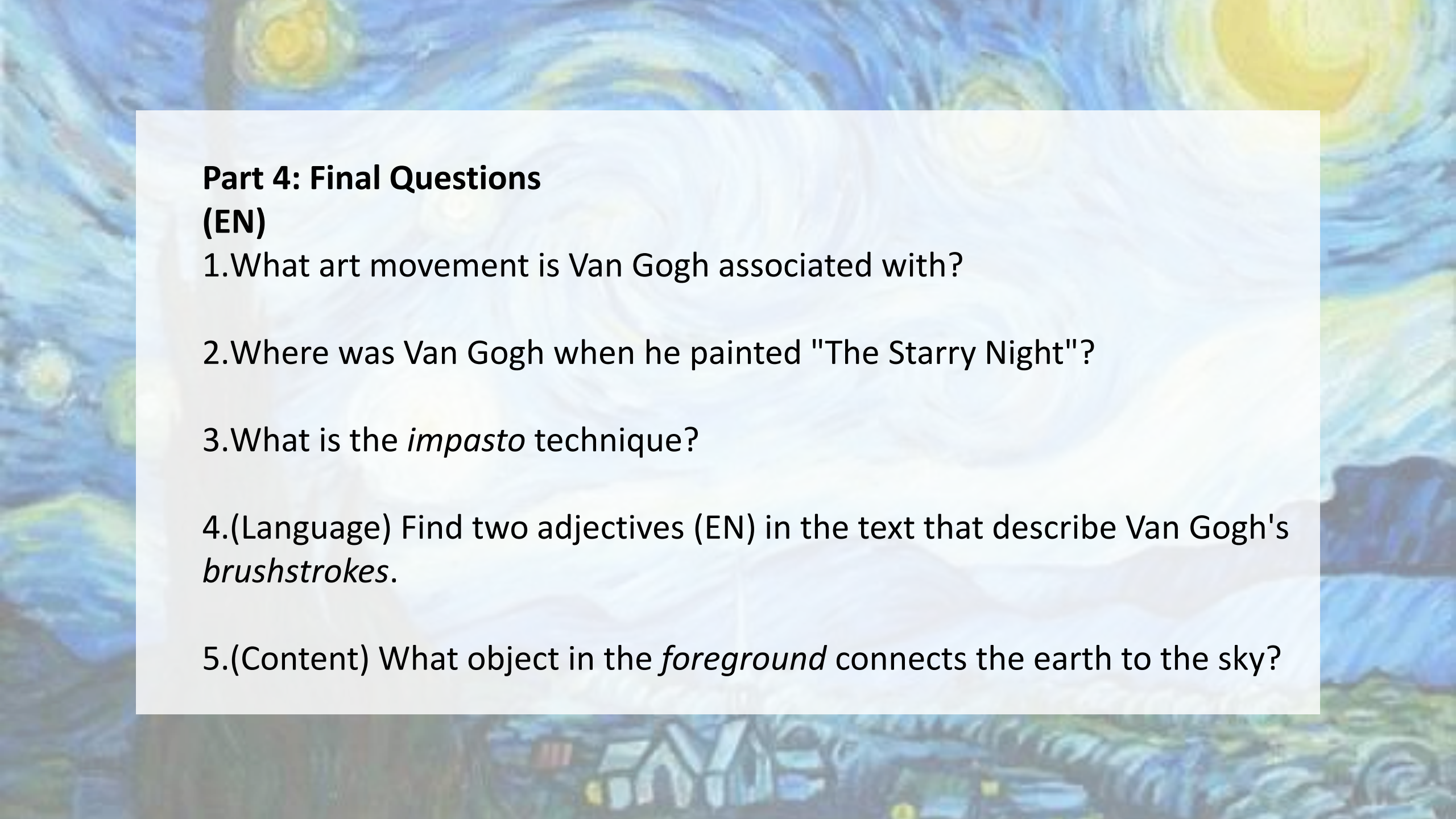
30 HANDPICKED SWATCHES+ HEX CODES

Colors and Technique

(EN) The palette is deliberately limited but intense, dominated by deep blues (cobalt, ultramarine) and vibrant yellows. The colors are not realistic; they are emotional and symbolic. The blue represents the sadness and mystery of the night, while the yellow represents life, energy, and hope (the light of the stars).

Van Gogh used a technique called **impasto**, where paint is applied very thickly, often straight from the tube. You can clearly see the texture and the physical energy of his brushstrokes. The lines are rhythmic and follow the forms, creating a sense of movement and vibration throughout the entire canvas.

Part 3: Key Terminology / Termini Specifici (Glossary)		
English Term	Termine Italiano	Meaning / Spiegazione
Post-Impressionism	Post-Impressionismo	An art movement that followed Impressionism, focusing more on emotion, symbolism, and personal expression.
Brushstroke	Pennellata	The mark left by a brush when applying paint. Van Gogh's are thick and visible.
Impasto	Impasto	A technique where paint is laid on the canvas very thickly, often straight from the tube.
Swirl	Vortice / Spirale	A spinning, circular motion. Used to describe the sky in "The Starry Night".
Cypress Tree	Cipresso	The large, dark tree in the foreground. Often a symbol of death and eternity.
Steeple	Campanile	The tall, pointed tower of a church.
Foreground	Primo piano	The part of the painting that seems closest to the viewer.
Background	Sfondo	The part of the painting that seems farthest away.
Asylum	Manicomio / Ospedale	The hospital where Van Gogh was staying when he painted the work.
Palette	Tavolozza / Palette	The range of colors used by an artist in a painting.
Symbolism	Simbolismo	The use of objects or images to represent abstract ideas or emotions.
Turmoil	Turbamento / Tumulto	A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty. Used to describe Van Gogh's emotions.
Celestial	Celeste	Positioned in or relating to the sky or outer space.
Dynamic	Dinamico	Characterized by constant change, activity, or energy (e.g., the sky).



Part 4: Final Questions (EN)

1. What art movement is Van Gogh associated with?
2. Where was Van Gogh when he painted "The Starry Night"?
3. What is the *impasto* technique?
4. (Language) Find two adjectives (EN) in the text that describe Van Gogh's *brushstrokes*.
5. (Content) What object in the *foreground* connects the earth to the sky?