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| My dear Theo,  I just received your warm letter. Thank you very much for the things you said. I am taking a rest today, so I have a chance to write back.  You asked me about my painting. Well, it is autumn now, and the woods are showing unusual colors. I tried to paint all the colors, but it was a hard job. I used up one and a half large tubes of white, even though the ground is very dark. Then I mixed the white with red, yellow, brown, and black. The result was a reddish-brown, like deep wine. Then there was some fresh grass which caught the light and sparkled brightly. It was very difficult to paint.  I said to myself while I was doing it: I mustn’t finish before I can show the mysterious mood of this autumn evening in my painting. However, because this light doesn’t last, I had to paint quickly, with a few strong touches of the brush.  I will work as hard as I can. You ask about my health, but what about yours? I think my remedy would help you, too: to be outside, painting. I still feel like it even when I’m tired.  I hope that your luck is in and that you are in good health.  Affectionately yours,  Vincent |

1. What did Vincent try to express in his painting?
2. From the underlined part in paragragh3, we can learn about

------------------------------------.

1. What remedy did Vincent suggest to Theo?

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| Today Vincent Van Gogh is one of the most famous painters of all time. In 1990, 100years after his death, one of his paintings sold for $82.5million. At the time, it was the most money ever paid for a work of art.  Unfortunately, Van Gogh never knew his own fame. When he died at the age of 37, he was poor and unsuccessful. He failed as a church minister and art seller. He even failed as an art student. He entered an art school but quit a few months later.  For the last five years of his life, Van Gogh studied art on his own. He painted many pictures and tried many different styles. One of his famous styles is based on Impressionism. Impressionism uses bright colors and short, thick brush marks. In Van Gogh’s paintings, these lively brush marks seem to move. He used this style to express his deep feelings.  Van Gogh often felt lonely and sad. His closest friend was his brother, Theo. Because Van Gogh focused only on his paintings, Theo often gave him money. He even tried to sell Vincent’s paintings. The two brothers wrote many letters to each other during their lifetime. These letters show Van Gogh’s thought about paintings, his relationship with Theo, and his deep depression.  His mood became worse over the years. One day he even cut off half of his left ear. Then in 1890, Vincent shot himself in the chest. He died two days later in bed in his brother’s arms. Though Vincent never knew it, people will always admire his great talent and sad, beautiful works. |

**\*Word Check**

1. To leave a school or job and not go back : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. To give attention to one thing; to concentrate on one thing :

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.A feeling of unhappiness and hopelessness : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. To respect; to think something is great : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*T / F**

1. He didn’t finish art school. ( T / F )

2. He didn’t work much to make money. ( T / F )

3. He could sell many pictures thanks to Theo. ( T / F )

4. He shot and killed himself. ( T / F )

**\*Match each main point to the correct paragragh in the passage.**

(1)Paragragh1 (A) Van Gogh’s life of failure

(2)Paragragh2 (B) how famous Van Gogh is

(3)Paragragh3 (C) Van Gogh’s style of painting

(4)Paragragh4 (D) how Van Gogh’s life got worse

(5)Paragragh5 (E) Van Gogh’s relationship with his brother