Paul Klee

Paul Klee is one of the best-loved artists of the 20th century. He was born near Bern, Switzerland in 1879. He spent most of his career in Germany. He died in 1940.

Whenever you are in Bern, take a number 12 bus to the Paul-Klee-Museum. It's a modern building. You can see there a part of Klee's work (oil, water-colours, drawings, prints).

ILL. "ZENTRUM PAUL KLEE", PHOTO: LDs

Klee had a vivid imagination. He never repeated himself. Some of his paintings are purely abstract, but most of them are based on the things that he saw around him. They are full of radiant colours and a joyous love of life.

Paul Klee's mother was Swiss. His father came from Germany and was a music teacher at a Swiss teacher training college. Paul was interested in music. He was also interested in art. He studied art in Munich. In 1914 he visited Tunisia with some friends. He was impressed by the colours. Then he worked at the famous Bauhaus art school in Germany.

Hitler came to power in 1933. The Nazis were against modern art and considered Paul Klee's work as "the work of a sick mind". Klee had to leave his teaching post. He returned to Switzerland.

In the last five years of his life he suffered from a painful illness. He was depressed by political events as Europe went to war. Klee continued to paint superb pictures. But in them a grim humour often replaced the playful wit of his earlier work.

vivid: lively
radiant: bright
joyous: happy
consider: determine
mind: brain
suffer: be in pain
painful: hurting
event: happening
superb: beautiful
grim: earnest
wit: joke

TRUE or FALSE?

Klee's mother was from Germany.	FALSE	Klee always painted the same kind of pictures.	
"Bauhaus" was an art school.		Klee was a joyful man until his death.	
Hitler liked Klee's paintings.		Klee was also a teacher.	
Klee liked Hitler's politics.		The Klee museum looks like waves.	
Klee liked the colours of Tunisia.		The Klee Museum is in Switzerland.	
Paul Klee didn't like music.		Klee's paintings are never abstract.	