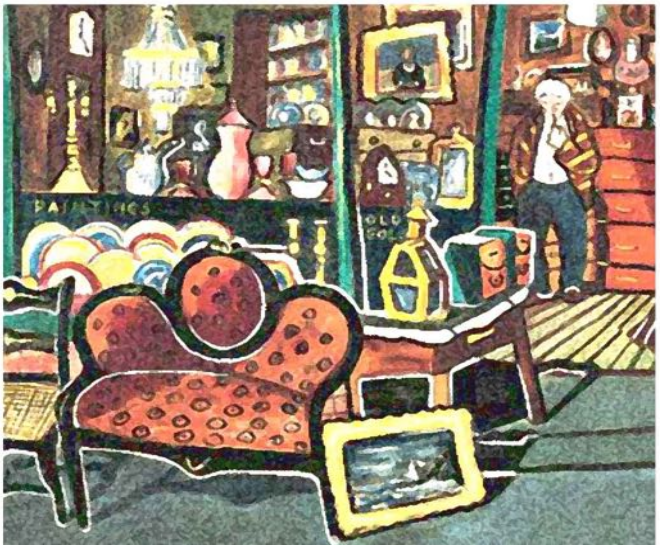
The Picture

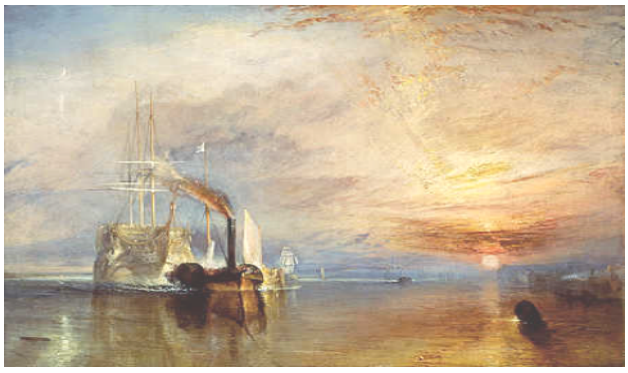
At the corner of a little street in Bournemouth there was antique shop. Mr Alfred Green was the owner of the shop. He knew a lot about antiques of all kinds. He was fond of art.

One Tuesday morning in October, Mr Green was waiting for customers. He had lit the open fire in the back of the shop. The shop bell rang. Mr Green went to see who it was.



It was a boy of about fifteen. Under his arm he had a brown paper parcel. "Hello. Are you Mr Green?" "Yes, that's right. Come in, please. And what can I do for you, son?" "Oh, it's this awful old picture," the boy said, and he unwrapped the parcel. He showed Mr Green a painting of boats on the sea in a beautiful old frame. Mr Green had never been more surprised in all his life. "We're selling our house. We're moving north, you see," the boy told him, "and for the last few days we've been looking through old boxes and things. We've got an awful lot of rubbish. Like this picture. Dad found it in the attic yesterday, and he thought perhaps the frame was worth a few pounds. Perhaps you could sell it to one of your customers." Mr Green was still looking at the picture. He was not really listening to what the boy was saying. "Well, yes," he said at last. "I mean - well, no. People aren't much interested in old pictures nowadays, you know."

It was fantastic. Nothing like this had ever happened to him before. He had seen at once that the awful old picture was not rubbish at all - it was an original Turner! Yes, an original Turner, he knew it! It was difficult to keep calm. But Mr Green knew that he had to. The frame was certainly not worth more than a few pounds, but the picture - he could make half a million out of the picture! But he must keep quiet. Of course, he must be very careful! How had this fabulous work of art ever got into the hands of this boy's parents? How could they have an original Turner in the house and not know what it was? It was all so fantastic. The important thing now was to talk calmly. Try not to show the boy how excited he felt, and the picture would be his. "You don't think you could sell the frame, then?" The boy was looking sad. "I didn't say that exactly." Mr Green took the picture from the boy for a moment. "Well, perhaps I'll be able to find a customer for it. Er - fifty pounds?" He hoped his voice sounded calm. "Fifty pounds? But that's great!" The boy had not expected so much. "Thanks very much, Mr Green!" He asked the boy to sit down near the fire in the back of the room for a moment while he went upstairs to fetch the money.



When he came down a few minutes later, something smelt strange. And the fire was burning more brightly than before. "Here you are, Mr Green, it's yours," said the boy and gave him the old frame. I took the picture out and threw it into the fire. You only wanted the frame."

about: nearly
art: what an artist creates
at last: finally
at once: immediately
attic: loft
awful: terrible
bright: not dark
business: trade
customer: client
excited: upset
fabulous: fantastic
fantastic: fabulous
few: some
frame: skeleton
like: the same way
of all kind: of all sort
owner: proprietor
parcel: box
perhaps: maybe
really: indeed
rubbish: waste
to be able: know how
to expect: to wait for
to fetch: go and get
to happen: take place
to keep calm: stay cool
to unwrap: unpack
upstairs: on the 1st floor
while: during
worth: value

LOOK FOR SYNONYMS. UNDERLINE:

picture	skeleton	**painting**	trade
corner	edge	penalty	ice cream
antique	cheap	up to date	vintage
owner	driver	holder	husband
customer	client	grocer	player
unwrap	eat	hide	remove
surprised	hidden	astonished	bright
awful	terrible	happy	brave
fantastic	unbelievable	true	stupid
quiet	far away	noisy	silent
fabulous	minor	fantastic	dull
excited	upset	quiet	seldom
fetch	bring	drop	fly
strange	fast	abnormal	clear

CHANGE INTO THE PAST TENSE:

The bell rings. … *The bell rang.* .....

He's waiting for customers. .....

He unwraps the parcel. .....

We find it in the attic. .....

He doesn't know what it is. .....

He hopes his voice sounds calm. .....

He goes upstairs to fetch the money. .....

A few minutes later he comes down. .....

The boy gives him the frame. .....

He takes the picture out and throws it into the fire. .....

THE SENTENCES ARE JUMBLED UP. PUT THEM IN THE CORRECT ORDER AND NUMBER THEM:

	A boy enters the shop.
	Mr Green goes to see who it is.
	The boy doesn't know that it is an original Turner.
2	He is waiting for customers.
	Mr Green is an antique dealer.
	He shows Mr Green an old picture.
	It's a lie, of course.
	Mr Green says he's interested in the frame.
	The shop bell rings.
	For he could sell the picture for half a million.
	So, he throws the old picture into the fire.
	Mr Green goes to fetch the money.
	He offers fifty pounds to the boy.
	The boy thinks that Mr Green is only interested in the frame.
	The boy hasn't expected so much.