

KS4 The moral of the story

The Four Times of Day

HOGARTH'S HOUSE



William Hogarth, the 'Father of British Art'

William Hogarth was born in 1697 and spent his life as a painter, print maker, satirist, social commentator and philanthropist. He is known as the 'Father of British Art' and his work was in opposition to 'High Art' – art that was based in the Renaissance style with subjects that were heroes from mythology, classical history and the Bible.

British art was based on English life and culture. Hogarth used his art to show the life of everyday people and cast light onto politicians, the aristocracy and British society.

Hogarth's London

In the 18th century, London was experiencing mass migration and expansion. There was a sense of rush in the cities and life was very fast paced - much like the London of today! This rush to big cities such as London, coincided with a rise in social unrest, poverty, crime and drunkenness. Hogarth's work showed such scenes to highlight social injustices and the need to improve British society.

How to use this resource

1. First split the class into pairs or small groups. Have each group look at one of the four prints in Hogarth's *Four Times of Day* series and discuss its meaning. There are no right or wrong answers, different people will notice different things. Use the 'Vocabulary and themes' list on page 2 to help you.
2. Have each pair/group share with the class what they discovered about each of the four prints.
3. Then as a class, discuss what Hogarth might be trying to say with this series. Think about: life in London, British society and a sense of place.

What is a print series?

A print series is like a pictorial novel - a story made from pictures. Each print can be 'read' individually, but also together to tell one story. Hogarth's series were often meant as a social commentary against things Hogarth disagreed with, such as animal cruelty or poverty.

How prints were made

Prints were made from engraved metal plates that were printed on paper for use in books or pamphlets. They were a cheaper way of producing art to reach a wider audience.

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Vocabulary words:

Scythe	a tool used for chopping down crops
Transient	lasting only for a short period of time
Huguenot	a group of French Christians who were kicked out of France due to their religious beliefs
Scold	A woman who berates and possibly abuses her husband
Restoration Celebration	celebrates the restoration of the monarchy in 1660

Themes to discuss:

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|-------------------|----------------|
| - Poverty | - Gender roles |
| - Immigration | - Refugees |
| - Race | - Consent |
| - Class divisions | - Discretion |

The Four Times of Day: Plate 1 *Morning*

HOGARTH'S HOUSE



Things to discuss:

- Take a look at the first plate on a cold winter morning. How does the washer lady look in comparison to the lady with the servant?
- How does she feel? How does Hogarth show us their feelings?
- What other things could you compare?
- Can you see any symbolism? Look out for the clock with a **scythe** and hour glass, symbolising the **transient** nature of life.

The Four Times of Day: Plate 2 Noon

HOGARTH'S HOUSE



Things to discuss:

- There is a clear contrast between the French **Huguenot** refugees (on the right) and the native English people at the pub (on the left). What is each group doing? How are each depicted? Sophisticated? Disorderly?
- How does this compare to images of refugees in the news today?
- The symbolism in this print suggests that the lives of the British people revolve around sex and food. What do you see that suggests this? Do you think Hogarth is passing judgement on class or the class divide? Why?

The Four Times of Day: *Plate 3 Evening*

HOGARTH'S HOUSE



Things to discuss:

- There are two sets of people here: a husband and wife on the right and two young children on the left. The woman is depicted as a **scold**. This stereotype has been around for hundreds of years. What clues in the print give us that impression?
- Look at the children, are they assuming the same gender roles as the adults? What is this print saying about the examples set by parents?

The Four Times of Day: Plate 4 *Night*

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Things to discuss:

- This scene is set at night after sunset, what are the sources of light?
- There are many signs of disorder - notice the **chamber pot** thrown out the window and the group of rough sleepers under the shop window. What else do you see? How are the streets of London similar and different from today?
- This scene is possibly depicting a **Restoration Celebration**. What do you think Hogarth might be trying to say about the British monarchy?