

Read the following excerpt of the speech given by Adolph Hitler at the opening of the "House of German Art". Locate the central idea of the text, key supporting ideas, and summarize the text.

Adolf Hitler, Speech Inaugurating the Great Exhibition of German Art (1937)

[...] I have observed among the pictures submitted here, quite a few paintings which make one actually come to the conclusion that the eye shows things differently to certain human beings than the way they really are, that is, that there really are men who see the present population of our nation only as rotten cretins; who, on principle, see meadows blue, skies green, clouds sulphur yellow, and so on, or, as they say, experience them as such. I do not want to enter into an argument here about the question of whether the persons concerned really do or do not see or feel in such a way; but, in the name of the German people, I want to forbid these pitiful misfortunates who quite obviously suffer from an eye disease, to try vehemently to foist these products of their misinterpretation upon the age we live in, or even to wish to present them as "Art."

No, here there are only two possibilities: Either these so-called "artists" really see things this way and therefore believe in what they depict; then we would have to examine their eyesight-deformation to see if it is the product of a mechanical failure or of inheritance. In the first case, these unfortunates can only be pitied; in the second case, they would be the object of great interest to the Ministry of Interior of the Reich which would then have to take up the question of whether further inheritance of such gruesome malfunctioning of the eyes cannot at least be checked. If, on the other hand, they themselves do not believe in the reality of such impressions but try to harass the nation with this humbug for other reasons, then such an attempt falls within the jurisdiction of the penal law. This House, in any case, has neither been planned, nor was it built for the works of this kind of incompetent or art criminal....

[...] I do not want anybody to have false illusions: National-Socialism has made it its primary task to rid the German Reich, and thus, the German people and its life of all those influences which are fatal and ruinous to its existence. And although this purge cannot be accomplished in one day, I do not want to leave the shadow of a doubt as to the fact that sooner or later the hour of liquidation will strike for those phenomena which have participated in this corruption.

But with the opening of this exhibition the end of German art foolishness and the end of the destruction of its culture will have begun. From now on we will wage an unrelenting war of purification against the last elements of putrefaction in our culture.

| Questions | Your response |
|---|----------------------|
| <p>What is the central/main idea of the reading?</p> <p><i>What is it about? What about it?</i> (1-2 words)</p> | |
| <p>List the key supporting details?</p> <p><i>What important information tells me more about the central idea?</i> (bullet points)</p> | |
| <p>Write a summary of what you read.</p> <p><i>What is the reading most importantly about? (1-2 sentences)</i></p> | |