

Read the following story about a girl and her friend. Then answer the questions that follow.

Nina's Painting

Nina's mother was a well-known artist. She painted almost every day. People would come to see her paintings, and sometimes they would buy some.

Nina enjoyed watching her mother paint. After school, she would sneak into her mother's studio and sit in a corner to watch. Nina loved being in her mother's studio. She loved the smell of the oil paint and the way her mother mixed colors and brushed them on the canvas. It was a whole world of beauty and mystery for Nina.

In the summer, Nina would go outside with her mother and watch her paint in the garden. Her mother would paint the sky; she would paint the trees; she would also paint the beautiful flowers. Nina loved these paintings.

When she looked at them, she could almost feel the warmth of the sunlight on her face. She could almost smell the flowers.

Nina was very young when she started to paint, too. She wanted to be just like her mother. She put on an old shirt and worked at a table, but she couldn't use oil paints like her mother did. "These are for when you are older," her mother told her. Nina used poster paint instead. She enjoyed painting with poster paint. The colors were bright and easy to use, but she really wanted to use the oil paints, just like her mother did.

Nina knew that her mother thought she was still too young for oil paints. This made her want to get older quickly. Her mother could tell that Nina was upset about it.

"Nina, everything comes in time," Nina's mother said one afternoon in the garden.

However, Nina couldn't wait.

One evening, Nina's mother had gone outside for a few minutes. She had been working hard on a painting all afternoon in her studio, and she wanted a break. While she was outside, Nina crept into her mother's studio.

She wasn't supposed to be there by herself. She looked at the painting her mother was working on. It wasn't finished yet, but Nina could tell what it was supposed to be.

Nina wanted to help, so she picked up a paintbrush. She dipped it into the oil paint and started to brush it on the canvas. She felt very grown up and helpful, so she did some more painting. Suddenly she heard the door open behind her, and heard her mother gasp.

"Nina, Nina, what are you doing?" Nina didn't know what to say. In fact, neither one of them said another word. Nina went to her room for the rest of the day. She knew she had done something she shouldn't have done, and she was sorry.

First, days passed, and then whole weeks went by. Nina's mother never said anything about what Nina had done, but Nina knew she had put the painting aside. Her mother was working on something else now.

Soon, Nina's tenth birthday was approaching. Her mother announced that she had a trip to the country planned. They would bring a picnic, and Nina could invite three or four friends along.

The morning of her birthday, Nina woke up early. As she neared the kitchen, she could smell that her mother had made her favorite breakfast. Then she heard her mother calling, "Nina, please come into my studio."

On the table, there was a large present, all wrapped up and tied with a beautiful blue ribbon. “Can I open it now, Mom?” Nina asked.

“Yes, of course, honey. Happy Birthday,” her mother answered. Nina pulled off the ribbon and carefully took off the paper. She looked down and a smile burst across her face. There in front of her was her first oil painting set: a box filled with oil paint and real brushes. It was what she had wanted for so long. Nina felt grown up.

“Thank you, thank you, Mom,” she exclaimed and she hugged her mother.

“I thought you were getting too old for poster paint,” her mother smiled. “Now we can paint together, but first you need to finish your first painting.”

Nina’s mother went to a shelf and pulled out the half-finished painting that Nina had worked on. Nina was astounded at first, but when she saw her mother smile, she knew all was well.

18. What is the **best** new title for this story?
- A “The Value of Patience”
 - B “Oil Paints Are for Children”
 - C “Going to the Country”
 - D “Like Mother, Like Daughter”
19. What is most likely the reason why Nina’s mother does not talk about what Nina did to her painting?
- A She does not care about her painting.
 - B She is thinking about what to do about it.
 - C She thinks Nina made her painting better.
 - D She wants Nina to stop painting and play games instead.
20. As used in the passage, what does the word astounded mean?
- A happy
 - B funny
 - C surprised
 - D forgetful
21. How does Nina feel about what she did to her mother’s painting?
- A She thinks her mother should sell it.
 - B She thinks she made it better than it was before.
 - C She thinks she should have used poster paint.
 - D She feels badly, but doesn’t know what to say about it.
22. Which event has the greatest effect on the outcome of the story?
- A Nina painting on her mother’s painting
 - B Nina painting with poster paints
 - C Nina’s mother planning a picnic for Nina’s birthday
 - D people buying paintings from Nina’s mother
23. What part of the setting is most important to the story?
- A the kitchen
 - B the garden
 - C the art studio
 - D the country

24. Which word **best** describes Nina at the end of the story?

- A angry
- B unhappy
- C pleased
- D determined

25. The purpose of this passage is most likely to

- A tell a story about a girl who wants to be a painter like her mother.
- B teach the reader how to become a well-known painter.
- C tell an entertaining story about a girl who uses poster paints.
- D convince the reader to use oil paints instead of poster paints.

