1. Halfies & Sketchies are not allowed into the castle. “Isn’t the garden good enough?” asks one of the Alldunns. *What examples of societal class and race distinctions are similar to this?*

2. Alldunns, Halfies, & Sketchies were all made by the painter, yet the Alldunns believe themselves to be superior and have all the power. *In what ways might this be an allusion to monarchies?*

3. Ramo sees Claire’s face in colors that aren’t there. *What might the film be saying about how someone in love sees the object of their affection?*

4. When Ramo tells Claire he can see the colors of her face, Lola asks why he makes up stories. Claire responds that stories are what bring joy to a life of drudgery. *Can you think of fictional stories that have served this purpose at difficult times in your life?*

5. The Sketches speak in partial sentences until they paint themselves. *What might this be saying about the equalizing power of the arts?*

6. The Alldunns refer to the Sketchies as “it” rather than “he” or “she.” They beat and kick Gum until he is just a pile of lines and seem to feel nothing in doing so. *What parallels might the film be drawing between real-life examples of dehumanizing of the lower class?*

7. Magenta wants to be done with the war, it has nothing to do with him. *Have you ever found yourself conscripted to one side of a battle when you wanted no part? How did you escape your painting?*

8. Garance tells the others about how the figures painted always capture the painter’s mood at the time the painting was made. *In what ways are some works of arts “self-portraits” of the artist’s internal life, even if the artist is not in the picture?*

9. When Quill and Magenta get blown into another area of the studio by the windstorm, they discover slashed, broken, and stabbed paintings. *Why do you suppose artists and other creators sometimes destroy their work?*

10. Quill carried the crumpled Gum in his sack throughout the movie, eluding a wheezing Death. The artist’s self-portrait paints him based on what Quill describes and brings him back to life. *What might the film be saying about a) how artists choose to portray their subjects and b) how art brings subjects to life?*

11. The Great Candlestick speaks for the people, condemning the Halfies and Sketchies as lesser. The others join in, laughing at his cruelty. When he summons them to witness the humiliation of Ramo & Claire tied to a post, they continue to go along until the newly-painted Sketches and Halfies arrive. *Can you think of some examples of how some behavior acceptable within a closed group, but become shameful when it has witnesses?*

12. The Alldunns end in throwing paint at the Great Candlestick. *Can you think of a time (in history or your own life) when a group who has gone along with a bullying leader has finally had enough, and take their power back?*

13. Lola does not want to repaint herself as the others do. *Why do you suppose that might be? Can you think of other perceived “imperfections” that you would not alter given the chance?*

14. The painter insists that he has not “abandoned” his paintings, but gave them the basics for living and allowed them to finish themselves. *How might one read this statement, as well as other events in the film, as the artist being portrayed as God?*

15. The painter tells Lola that she can go wherever she wants, that there are no limits here. *In what ways is this true of art, story, and film?*

*Thanks to Julie Dexter at Gaston High School for preparing this guide.*
“Le Tableau”/ “The Painting”  
Further Art Research & Project Ideas  
*France, 2011, Animator Jean-François Laguionie, Screenwriter Annik Le Rey, 76 minutes*

1. Reviews of the film cite the influence Henri Matisse, the Fauves, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Amedeo Modigliani, Eduoard Manet, Andre Derain, Pierre Bonnard, and others. *Take a look at the examples below. Can you relate a particular character or scene from the film to the paintings/sketches?*

2. *Searching online, can you find further examples of these artists’ works that may have inspired the film?*

3. The film is computer-generated, yet it has the feel of hand-drawn or hand-painted animation. *Do some research to see how this look is achieved.*

4. *What do you think of the mixing of animation styles within the film? Did you have a favorite type?*

5. If you were to design characters based on your art heroes, which artists and which specific pieces would you use? *Create a character sketch/painting based on an artist’s work.*

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