

# Mystery in the Masterpiece



Antoine Le Nain (French, ?-1648). *Le Bénédicite (The Blessing)*. n.d. Oil on copper. Frick Art & Historical Center.

People who enjoy art often have to be detectives. They may want to know when a painting was created, what it is a picture of, or who the artist was. For some paintings the answers are easy, but for others it takes lots of research to figure out their secrets.

What do you see in this painting? Who do you think the people are, and what are they doing? These are all things to wonder about, but the biggest mystery is the name of the artist.

We think it is by Antoine Le Nain, a French painter who lived about 400 years ago. But it could also be by one of his brothers, Louis or Mathieu. All 3 worked closely together in one studio. Because they usually signed only their last name, Le Nain, it's hard to know who created which painting! Antoine was best at miniature paintings and portraits (pictures of people), often painted on rectangles of copper. Louis was the genius of the family. Mathieu lived longer than his brothers, so his later work is easier to label.

Use your detective skills to find the hidden words in this puzzle.

Circle the words as you find them—up, down, backward, forward, diagonally. Can you track down all the words?

Antoine	France
Art	Guess
Brother	Le Nain
Clue	Meal
Color	Painting
Copper	Secret
Easel	Sketch
Family	



Whichever brother created the painting at the top of this page, it's no mystery that it's a beauty!