15. In the scene in the auction gallery in "Magdalena Looking," Magdalena is "struck again by that keenest of childhood wishes" and regrets that she did not pursue this wish. In an essay, explain Magdalena's wish. If Magdalena had followed her wish, do you think she would have succeeded? Provide at least two examples from the story to support your ideas.

15. Students should note that Magdalena's wish is to record life by painting what she sees. Some students may believe that if she had pursued her dream, she would have been successful. They may cite her love of "looking" and her deep sensitivity as evidence. Other students may believe that she would not have been successful, citing the social constraints on women at that time.

16. In "Artful Research," Susan Vreeland explains that she uses factual material in her works of fiction. In an essay, define the concept of fiction. Then, explain how Vreeland uses factual information in "Magdalena Looking." According to Vreeland, how can facts add to a fictional work?

16. Students should define fiction as prose writing about characters and events from the author's imagination. They should point out that "Magdalena Looking" is a fictional story but that it contains some historically accurate information, such as details from the life of J. Vermeer, what the city of Delft looked like, and how paints were made in the 1600s. Finally, students should note that according to Vreeland, factual information makes a work of fiction more believable and more interesting.

20. Near the end of "Magdalena Looking," Magdalena is described as "a woman overcome with wishes." In an essay, identify Magdalena's most powerful wish. Does her wish come true? Why or why not? Based on this outcome, what might Vreeland be urging her readers to learn or to do? Support your answers to these questions with at least two examples from the story.

20. Students should note that Magdalena's most powerful wish is to paint, and that, because of her gender and her father's attitude toward her, her wish remains unfulfilled. Students may say that Vreeland seems to be urging her readers to value and pursue their own dreams-and thereby avoid the kind of regret Magdalena expresses at the auction when she sees the painting of herself.

21. In nonfiction works, authors use facts to serve different purposes. Sometimes, they use facts to instruct or inform their audience. Other times, they use facts to persuade their audience or to illustrate a particular idea. In an essay, analyze how Vreeland uses facts in "Artful Research." What kinds of facts does she include? Does she want the reader to remember the facts for their own sake? Or, do the facts help Vreeland accomplish another purpose? Use at least two details from the essay to support your analysis.

21. Students should observe that Vreeland includes facts relating to her own research process and discoveries and that these facts are valuable not for their own sake but as glimpses into Vreeland's writing process. These facts help convince the reader that Vreeland's process works, and they may also inspire other writers to try the process on their own. Students should include at least two details from the essay.

22. In "Artful Research," Vreeland claims that research "gives direction, depth, and authority" to her writing. Having read "Magdalena Looking," do you agree with Vreeland's claim? What details or aspects of the story point back to the author's research? In your opinion, do these details enrich the story or detract from it? Support your answers with at least two details from the story.

22. Students should note aspects of "Magdalena Looking" that suggest the author's research, such as the geo­graphical description of Delft from the perspective of the sentry post, the materials and processes her father used to make his paintings, and the objects and accessories particular to that time and place (such as iceboats, tap­estries, and gold shoe buckles). Students may or may not agree that these details enrich the story, but they should support their opinions with evidence from the selection.