

CHAPTER I

Early years

- Hi guys, my name is Vincent van Gogh and in this book I am going to tell you about the highlights of my life. I will show you some of the paintings that I did and tell you how I felt when I painted them.



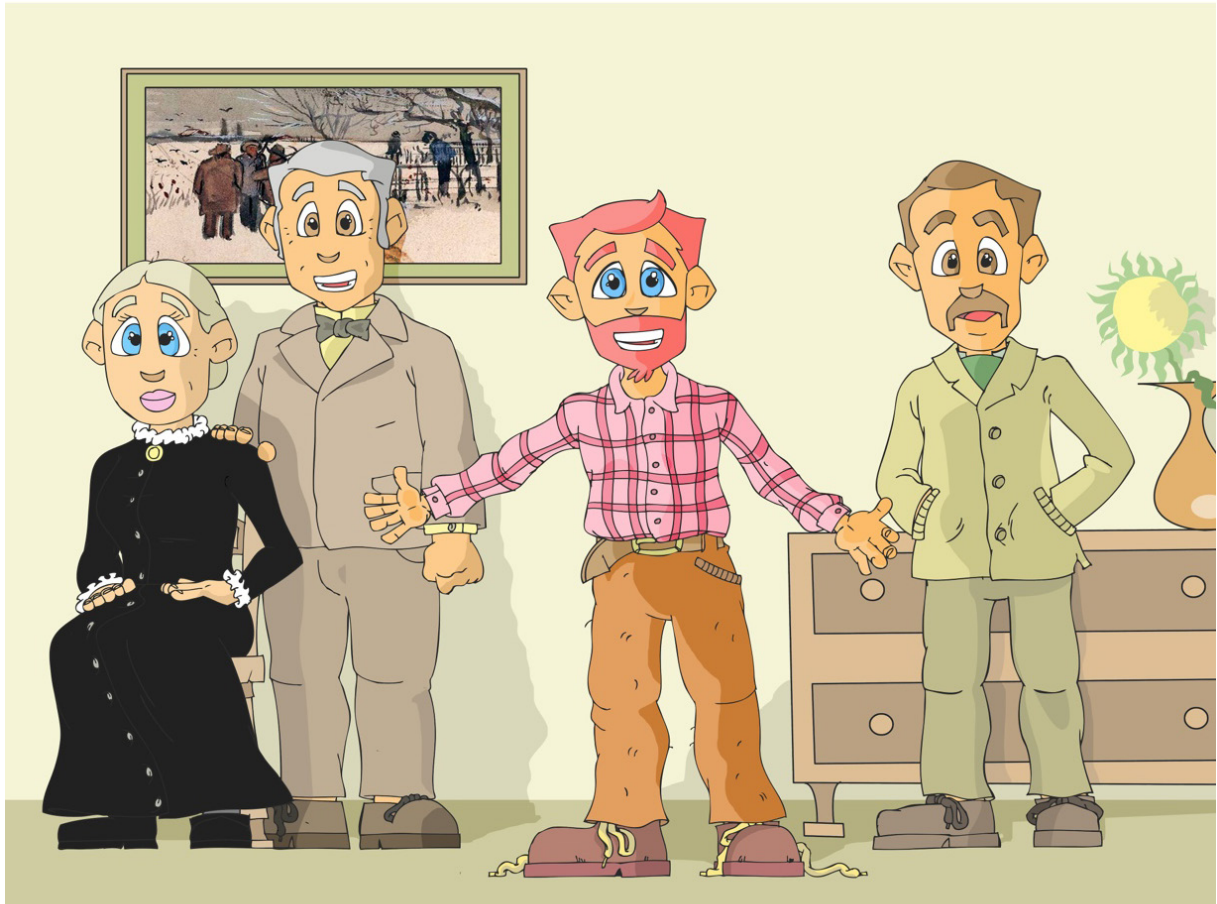
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- Did you know that I painted 900 paintings? Do you want to know how long it took me? This is how the story of my life begins...
- I was born in a Dutch city called Zundert on 30 March 1853. My parents are called Theodorus and Anna Cornelia.
- I have really big eyes and red hair; now that is fun!



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Although Vincent didn't really like going to school, he was very good at languages. He mainly studied French and German. However, at the age of fifteen, he leaves school and starts to study on his own.

When he is sixteen, and once he has abandoned his studies, Vincent starts working as an apprentice at an art gallery, a place where people buy and sell paintings and other pieces of art.

When he turns twenty, the gallery sends him to London and then to Paris. During this time he absorbs a lot of

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knowledge about painting which will subsequently be very useful to him.

After a few years, he starts to find the work boring and monotonous, and in a letter to his brother Theo he writes:

*"Dear Theo,
have said goodbye to
the art gallery. I no longer
have to keep working with
them anymore."*

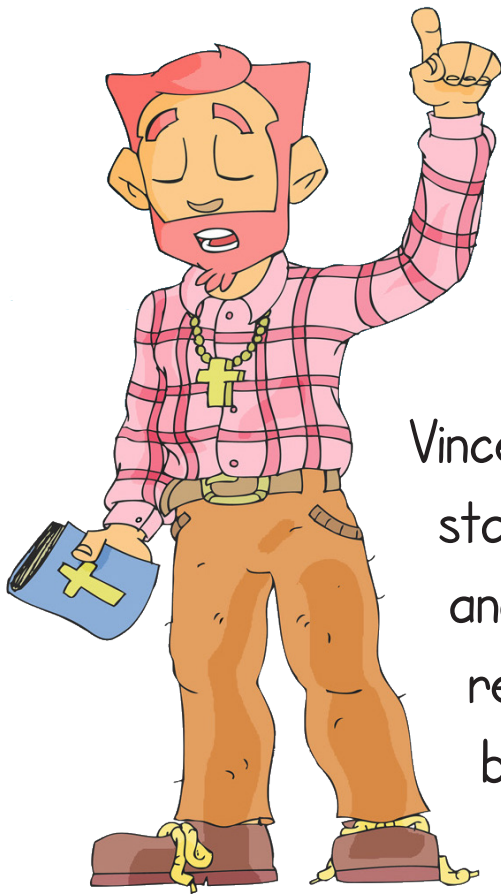


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We don't really know whether he was sacked or whether Vincent himself did something so that they would dismiss him. Whatever the case, Theo, who works

at the same art gallery, but at the office in Holland, is sorry to hear the news and feels sad about his brother's situation.



At the age of twenty-three, Vincent goes back to England where he starts to read the Bible. It inspires him and causes him to experience strong religious feelings. So much so, that he becomes a preacher.