

ACTIVITY#3-MIDTERM



The Execution of Lady Grey

1. *The Execution of Lady Jane Grey*; Artist: Paul Delaroche; Date: 1833; Medium: oil on canvas.
2. **Lines** are used to direct the viewer's focus. Strong vertical lines from the standing attendants give a sense of solemnity, while the diagonal of Jane's extended arm guides the eye directly to the block. Gentle curves in her gown soften the scene, highlighting her fragility. These lines work together to lead the viewer across the canvas in a deliberate way, from her face to her fate.
3. **Shapes and forms** balance realism and symbolism. The human figures are organic shapes, natural in their proportions, while the block and platform are more geometric, suggesting

firmness and inevitability. Delaroche models the forms three-dimensionally with shading, giving depth to the folds of Jane's dress and the sorrowful faces of her attendants.

4. **Color** is one of the most striking elements. The painting is dominated by a dark, muted palette in the background, while Jane's pure white dress stands out in sharp contrast. The white symbolizes innocence and purity, making her the moral and visual center of the piece. Small touches of warm tones, such as red stockings and golden hair, provide contrast without stealing focus.
5. **Value, or contrast of light and dark**, heightens the drama. Bright light falls on Jane, making her glow against the shadows that engulf the background figures. This chiaroscuro effect not only directs the viewer's attention but also symbolizes the tension between innocence and cruelty, light and darkness.
6. **Texture** is carefully depicted to increase realism. The satin gown looks smooth and delicate, the wooden block appears solid and rough, and the straw beneath adds gritty detail. These textures make the scene feel immediate and tangible.
7. **Space** is used in a way that feels theatrical. The figures are tightly grouped in the foreground, while the background recedes into darkness. This shallow depth makes the scene intimate, almost like a stage play, focusing attention entirely on the act of execution rather than the larger historical setting.
8. If you combine all of it, these elements create a painting that is both visually striking and emotionally moving. Delaroche combines strong lines, contrasting colors, and dramatic lighting to emphasize the tragedy of Lady Jane Grey. The result is an image that goes beyond history to convey sorrow, innocence, and human vulnerability, ensuring that viewers feel the weight of this moment in time.