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English 4

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Analysis of the Last Supper

The Last Supper

The Last Supper, by Leonardo Da Vinci, is a stunning masterpiece that uses certain techniques to portray and highlight different aspects of the scene painted. Da Vinci places Jesus at the center of the painting and has him in bright colors, making him stand out and be the first thing our eyes notice. The dark ceiling above and the shadowy walls around him are painted at an angle to add depth to the room and draw attention to the bright blue windows that surround Jesus in light. Six disciples are seated on either side of him, and at first glance, they seem to all be happily conversing with each other and enjoying themselves. But upon closer inspection, we see that not one of them is smiling and most of them look worried.

Though beautiful and expertly painted, The Last Supper does not completely align with history. The grand meal Jesus and his disciples are sharing and the eye-catching blues and reds they wear in the painting do not line up with historical accounts of the event or the times. The Israelites typically wore muted tan and white colors instead of the vibrant ones depicted, and their meal would have been much simpler. Everything they ate during the celebration of the passover represented something about the Lord or symbolized an event in their history, it was not a fancy meal, but rather a symbolic one. The meal would have also taken place in the Israelite's homes, which looked much different than the building we see in the painting.