***Here are some Van Gogh’s words and thoughts.***

***Which one(s) appeal to you most? What do we infer about him as a person?***

* *“Though I am often in the depths of misery, there is still calmness, pure harmony and music inside me.”*
* *“If you hear a voice within you say ‘you cannot paint’, then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.”*
* *“I experience a period of frightening clarity in those moments when nature is so beautiful.*

*I am no longer sure of myself, and then paintings appear as in a dream.”*

* *“Love many things,*

*For therein lies the true strength.*

*And whosoever loves much, performs much,*

*And can accomplish much,*

*And what is done in love*

*Is done well.”*

* *“I want to paint men and women with that certain eternal touch.”*
* *“What am I in the eyes of most people?*

*A nonentity, an eccentric, or an unpleasant person,*

*Somebody who has no position in society and will never have…*

*…Even if that were absolutely true,*

*Then I should one day like to show by my work*

*What such an eccentric, such a nobody, has in his heart.*

*That is my ambition,*

*Based less on resentment than on love*

*In spite of everything.”*

* *“I can’t change the fact that my paintings don’t sell.*

*But the time will come when people will recognize that they are worth more than the value*

*Of the paints used in the picture.”*

* *“As we advance in life it becomes more and more difficult.*

*But in fighting the difficulties the inmost strength of the heart is developed.”*

* *“I am no friend of present-day Christianity, though its Founder was sublime…*

*That God of the clergymen, He is for me as dead as a doornail.*

*To believe in God for me is to feel that there is a God. Not a dead one or a stuffed one, but a living one.”*

* *“When I have a terrible need of - dare I say the word – religion, then I go out and paint the stars.”*
* *“For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.”*
* *“There is something inside me – what can it be?”*
* *“I don’t care much whether I live a long or short time. The world concerns me only insofar as I feel a certain*

*indebtedness toward it…*

*Because I have walked this earth for thirty years, and out of gratitude, want to leave some souvenir.”*