

Women in Pre-Raphaelite Painting

activities

↓ CLOZE EXERCISE

Fill in the gaps with the words given: lips – evils – man – fate – masculine – cruel – sexuality – portrait – ambiguous – myth.

Pre-Raphaelite Women



Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Women in Pre-Raphaelite paintings are very different from the conventional Victorian ideal of women as subservient to

..... **1**. Rossetti and Burne-Jones depicted women as powerful, **2** beings who used their beauty and their **3** to tempt and destroy men. Pre-Raphaelite women also looked different from a physical point of view. Burne-Jones'

favourite models were tall, thin and looked neither **4** nor feminine. Rossetti's female figures had the distinctive features of Jane Morris with her statuesque figure, full **5** and long wavy hair as shown in the painting *Pandora* (1878). In the Greek **6**, the god Jupiter gave a casket to Pandora, a mortal woman, and forbade her from opening it. However, she took it back to earth and opened it, letting forth all **7** into the world. Only Hope was left inside. The Latin words on the casket, 'Ultima Manet Specs' mean 'Hope remains last.' The face and figure type of Pandora are based on Jane Morris but this is not a **8**. The meaning of the image is **9**. Is Pandora an evil *femme fatale* who ruins men by her disobedience? Or is she a heroic woman who defies the gods to take control of her own **10**?

(Adapted from www.liverpoolmuseum.org)

↓ SPEAKING

The picture below represents a painting by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Pandora*, painted in 1878 and on display at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. Provide a description of it.

