

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

# Willard Wigan:

## micro artist

His work may be microscopically small, but Willard Wigan possesses an artistic talent of majestic proportions: in July 2007 he was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II with an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for his services to art. Wigan creates artworks that are so minute they can be placed in the eye of a needle, their intricate details only visible through a microscope.

Wigan says his interest in creating objects in miniature began when he was five years old. 'I started making houses for ants because I thought they needed somewhere to live,' he recalls. 'Then I made them shoes and hats. It was a fantasy world I escaped to. That's how my career as a micro-sculptor began.'

The methods, materials and tools that Wigan uses to produce his remarkable works are just as fascinating as the works themselves. To create his sculptures, he enters a meditative state, slowing his heartbeat to reduce natural hand tremors and sculpting between heartbeats. Wigan has also utilised his hand tremors to carve a single grain of sand. Wigan described taking advantage of tremors as a natural 'jackhammer' that he used to chisel the sand grain into shape.

Wigan uses a variety of surgical blades and handmade tools for his work. He has attached a shard of diamond to a pin as a blade and used a fine hair from a dead fly as a paintbrush. In terms of the medium for his work Wigan has been known to use materials as diverse and interesting as gold flakes, dust particles and even a spider's cobweb. His willingness to experiment and problem-solve in order to overcome the constraints of working on a Lilliputian\* scale results in works that are entrancing.

Artists like Wigan challenge the boundaries of human endeavour. His passion, energy and intellect are evident in every piece he produces. The whimsical Humpty Dumpty (of nursery rhyme fame), a seemingly unlikely subject for a serious work of art, is elevated to take-your-breath-away status by his genius. The easily recognised form of Humpty Dumpty waves happily from his perch—inside the eye of a needle!—so minute that 'all the king's horses and all the king's men' would need a microscope to put Humpty back together again!

\* Lilliput is a fictional island where everything exists in miniature.

1. In the second paragraph, why does the writer use a quote from Wigan?
  - (A) to explain the obstacles Wigan has overcome in his career
  - (B) to help the reader better understand Wigan
  - (C) to give the impression that she knows Wigan well
  - (D) to inspire people to copy Wigan's work
  
2. Why does Wigan enter a meditative state when he is working?
  - (A) to assist him to see his work clearly
  - (B) to help him to be more creative
  - (C) to reduce the effect of distractions
  - (D) to enable more accurate sculpting
  
3. What is the 'natural "jackhammer"' referred to in the third paragraph?
  - (A) Wigan's involuntary hand movements
  - (B) a pounding tool used to break up objects
  - (C) a special tool designed to sculpt sand
  - (D) the noise made when carving sand
  
4. What is unique about Wigan's handmade tools?
  - (A) They are designed to be miniature artworks in their own right.
  - (B) They cannot be seen without the assistance of a microscope.
  - (C) They use interesting combinations of materials for specific purposes.
  - (D) They consist of rare materials with strange properties.
  
5. The word 'entrancing', as it is used in the text, means  
(A) engulfing. (B) entertaining. (C) amusing. (D) captivating.
  
6. When the writer says that the Humpty Dumpty sculpture 'is elevated to take-your-breath-away status', she means that
  - (A) people must hold their breath to view the sculpture.
  - (B) a person's breath may cause Humpty Dumpty to fall from his perch.
  - (C) a person viewing the sculpture is likely to think it is extraordinary.
  - (D) the sculpture is best viewed from above.
  
7. Why does the writer mention 'all the king's horses and all the king's men' in the final sentence?
  - (A) to make a humorous connection with the nursery rhyme
  - (B) to show that even kings appreciate Wigan's work
  - (C) to hint at the future direction Wigan's artwork may take
  - (D) to suggest a way that culture influences artists