A dirty mattress and torn pillows. / Empty bottles of vodka and cigarette butts. / Packets of contraceptive pills and condoms. / Dirty sheets and filthy underclothes. / Welcome to the art of Tracey Emin, / one of Britain’s most controversial and popular contemporary artists. / This description is of the work of art called ‘My Bed’ / which was shortlisted for the 1999 Turner Prize, / Britain’s annual contemporary art award. / It is said that the work was actually Emin’s own bed, / in which she spent a week overcome with grief / and feeling suicidal / after breaking up with her boyfriend. / One judge said it evoked feelings of innocence and honesty / and reminded people of fundamental issues. / The bed became a huge sensation, / although many people were negatively affected by it. / Some journalists called it ‘sick’ and ‘depraved’. / It quickly became a symbol of what is called conceptual art. / In conceptual art, / the idea that the artist wants to express through a piece of work / is more important than the work itself. / Tracey Emin’s Bed didn’t win the Turner Prize in the end, / but it was bought by millionaire art collector Charles Saatchi / for one hundred and fifty thousand pounds. / Emin’s work was featured in a 2007 retrospective of the Turner Award.

Note: ‘/’ indicates where the speaker should pause to allow students to catch up.