

**a** Listen to the song verse by verse. Complete each gap with a three-word phrase. Be careful, because the words are often linked together.

## Vincent

Starry starry night  
Paint your palette \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>  
Look out on a summer's day  
With eyes that know the darkness \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>  
Shadows on the hills  
Sketch the trees and the daffodils  
Catch the breeze and the winter chills  
In colours on the snowy linen land

### Chorus

Now I understand  
What you \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> to me  
And how you suffered for your sanity  
And how you tried to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>  
They would not listen,  
They did not know how  
Perhaps \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>

Starry starry night  
Flaming flowers that brightly blaze  
Swirling clouds in violet haze  
Reflecting \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> china blue  
Colours changing hue  
Morning fields of amber grain  
Weathered faces \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>  
Are soothed beneath the artist's loving hand

### Chorus

For they could not love you  
But still your love was true  
And when no hope was \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>  
on that starry starry night,  
You \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> as lovers often do,  
But I could have told you, Vincent  
This world was never meant for one  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> you

Starry starry night  
Portraits hung \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup>  
Frameless heads on nameless walls  
With eyes that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> and can't forget  
Like the strangers that you've met  
The ragged men in ragged clothes  
The silver thorn of bloody rose  
Lie \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> on the virgin snow  
Now I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup>  
What you tried to say to me  
And how you suffered for your sanity  
And how you tried to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup>  
They would not listen  
They're not listening still  
Perhaps \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup>



**b** Look at the highlighted phrases which help to convey Van Gogh's style of painting. With a partner say what you think they mean.

### Glossary

daffodil = tall yellow spring flower shaped like a trumpet  
china blue = the blue colour in Chinese porcelain  
hue = a particular shade of a colour

### Song facts

This song, a tribute to Vincent Van Gogh, was written by Don McLean and first recorded by him on his album *American Pie*. He wrote the song after reading a book about Van Gogh and it reflects his admiration not only for his paintings, but also for the man himself.