

## Talking to a Portrait

A portrait can help you understand what people looked like in the past. They also contain hidden information that can tell you even more, if you look very carefully and ask the right questions.

What is the name and title of the man in the portrait?

What is the Earl wearing? Why?

Describe the sitter's clothes.

Describe the Earl's facial expression/ mood.

Does the way he is standing tell you anything about the Earl?

Do you think the artist has painted the body in proportion?

What do the clothes and the other objects in the picture tell us about the Earl?

What medium has the artist used, and what effect does this have?

Has the artist used colour or lighting effects in a special way?

How large is the work? Does this have any effect on you?

Why do you think the portrait was painted?

