

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 woman in the portrait?

What is she wearing? Why?

Describe the person's clothes.

Describe the facial expression/ mood.

Does the way she is standing tell you anything about the person?

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 person?

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?

