

Bath Time Travellers - Art Explorers



Every picture tells a story!

- The Victoria Art gallery looks after lots of different paintings and works of art. The artists who made them wanted to connect with their audience and make them feel all kinds of emotions.
- Some of the paintings tell us about people from the past, and what our world looked like at different points in time.
- Have a look at some of the Gallery's best loved paintings and try our creative writing exercises to get your creative juices flowing!
- After, you can take a virtual tour of the Upper Gallery to see these paintings in the gallery setting.
- <https://www.victoriagal.org.uk/3d-model-gallery>

Ladymead House, Bath (1730, artist unknown)



Imagine you are staying with friends at Ladymead House. Write a letter to your parents, telling them all about the house and gardens. You might like to think about:

- What rooms are there inside the house? What do they look like?
- Are there cooks, servants, gardeners, stable-hands?
- What do the gardens look like? Are there trees, flowers, a vegetable patch? Use all your senses to describe it.
- Look at the bottom of the picture. What could you get up to on the river?

Sophia Dumergue -(1780, Johann Zoffany)



Imagine you are Sophia. Write a diary entry for her.

You might want to think about these things:

- Look at Sophia's clothes and jewellery. Do you think she has a comfortable life?
- What kind of things might she do in her day?
- Sophia's father was the Royal Dentist. Do you think she spends a lot of time with him? How does that make her feel?
- Sophia and her father moved to England from France. Does she miss home? Why? Why not?
- Sophia has a pet kitten. What personality does it have?

A Storm, With Smugglers Landing (1791, P J de Louthembourg)

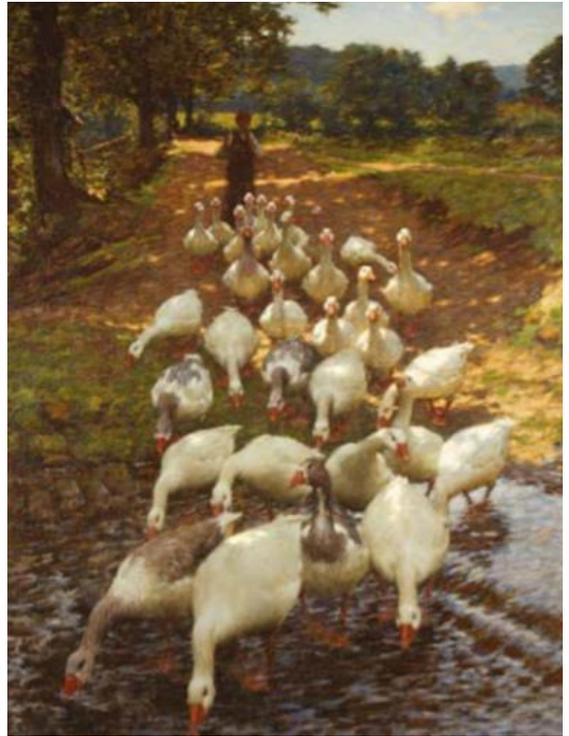


Look closely – there's lots happening in this painting! Pretend you are in the painting. Write a story or play based on who you are and how you feel. You might like to think about:

- Is smuggling good or bad? Why?
- Are you the person in the boat? How do you feel about being out in the storm? What's in your boat?
- Are you the person on the beach? What are you smuggling to shore? Are you scared for the person in the boat? Do you think you will get caught?
- Are you the person in the castle? What's going on down on the beach? Do you feel safe inside – is your castle strong enough to survive the storm?

The Watersplash
(1899, Henry Herbert La Thangue)

Imagine you are the goose-herder (yes, that's what is happening here!). Write a song or poem that describes the easy and difficult parts of your job. Your song or poem does not have to rhyme. You might like to think about:



- How many geese do you have?
- Where are you herding them? Is it far?
- Do the geese have different personalities? Do they all have names?
- What do they sound like? What do they smell like?
- Do you take them out in the rain?
- Do you have any helpers?

- Handy hint: If you're struggling, write answers to the questions above on separate slips of paper – make them as descriptive as you can. Rearrange the slips until you are happy with the order. You may need to change some words and add in punctuation as you go.

Pilu, The Performing Dog (1910, John Charlton)



Pilu was a famous dog. He performed all over Europe and was especially good at working out maths problems.

Do you think Pilu enjoyed performing? Make a poster about Pilu depending on your answer. Things to think about:

- Why Pilu is so special?
- How would he travel around? Look at the date of the painting to help you decide.
- Do you think his owner was nice to him?
- Do we still have performing animals today? Think of all the different types – are they good or bad for the animals?