

# THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Art of English

Intermediate

## I. Portraits: Adjectives (Gallery 3)

**Tip!**

Portraits are pictures of real people, whom the artist has seen.



la) Look at these character adjectives.

independent	arrogant	unfriendly	courageous	miserable
solemn	sympathetic	stern	thoughtful	serious

Circle the adjectives which are positive characteristics. Have you chosen the same words as your partner?

lb) Look at the different portraits in Gallery 3. Describe one of the people, using the words above to help if you like. Can your partner guess who you are describing?

lc) Which of the people in the portraits is the most like you? Explain your choice to your partner.

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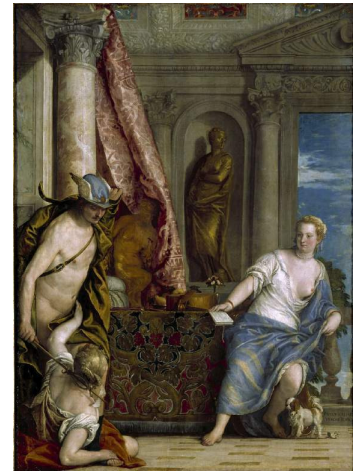
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## 2. Narrative Paintings: Telling a Story (Gallery 7)

2a) Read this story about Hermes, Herse and Aglauros.



One day Hermes, the messenger of the Gods was flying home when he spotted Herse, an Athenian princess. Hermes fell instantly in love with Herse and decided to go to her house to meet her. When he arrived at Herse's house, her sister Aglauros met him at the door and asked him what he wanted. When Hermes explained that he had fallen in love with her sister, Aglauros became jealous and refused to move from the doorway. Aglauros did love her sister, but she had been put under a jealousy spell by the Goddess Minerva. Hermes was determined not to let Aglauros stop him seeing Herse so he...

Find the painting of this story to discover the ending. Did Hermes:

- a) go through the back door instead
- b) use his magic wand to turn Aglauros into stone so that she really couldn't move
- c) make Aglauros wear his winged helmet which carried her away?

2b) Retell the story with your partner, taking one sentence each. Try not to look at the text above – just the painting.

Hermes fell in love with Herse on his way home.

Then he went to visit her at her house.

2c) Use another painting in the gallery to make up your own story.

Try a story including:

- An old man and a map
- A baby, a young woman and a skeleton
- Boats setting off on a journey

#### Story starts

Once upon a time...  
On a dark and stormy night...  
Long ago and far away...  
There was a time when...

In a faraway land where...  
Back in the dim and distant past  
Imagine a place where...  
The sun shone brightly on...

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Tip!  
We call pieces of pottery and porcelain that are used at mealtimes *tableware*.

## 3. Pottery: Past Habits and Customers (Galleries 26 & 27)

3a) Look at the different objects that people would have used to serve food and drink in the past.

Choose a favourite object and describe how it would have been used in the past. Can your partner guess what you are describing?



This object used to contain tea. People would not drink from it, but they would pour the tea into cups from it.

#### Vocabulary

Posset - a milky drink  
Punch - a fruity drink, often with alcohol  
Cistern - a wine cooler  
Charger - a large dish or plate

3b) With your partner make two lists:

Today people serve dinner using...	In the past, people would serve dinner using...

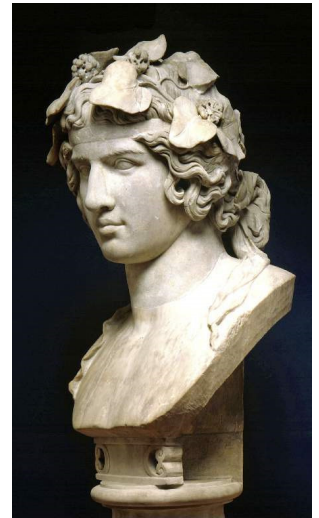
3c) Look in gallery 26 at the porcelain figures. Use them to make up sentences about things people used to do in the past – occupations, clothing, hobbies etc.

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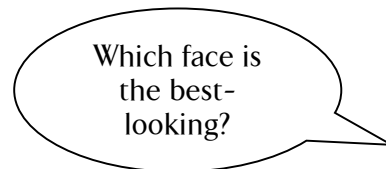
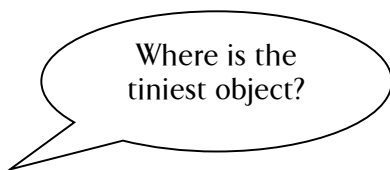
## 4. Ancient Greece: Comparing and Contrasting (Gallery 2I)

4a) Have a look around the gallery to familiarise yourself with the objects in it. Work with a partner. Choose an object each, and then use the following adjectives to compare them.

*e.g. 'The wine jar is bigger than the helmet'*

beautiful	heavy	damaged	delicate	plain
old	small	colourful	strong	useful

4b) Challenge your partner to find some superlative objects.



4c) Use the objects and pot paintings in cases 8, 9, 10 and 11 to make comparisons between Ancient Greece and a country of today

Whereas in Ancient Greece \_\_\_\_\_,  
nowdays \_\_\_\_\_.