

Literature Through Art Creative Writing Workshop January 2020
The Enchanted Interior at the Laing Art Gallery

The character of the painting: using *The Enchanted Interior* artworks to write creatively

1. **Creating a character:** Choose a painting that interests you. Look at the person in that painting. Describe them in detail: age, height, hair colour, clothes, what they are doing etc. Look closely at their facial expression. What are they thinking? How do you think they feel? If they spoke, what would it sound like? Try to imagine what their life was like before they entered the picture. Give your character a name.

Notes on a **character**:

2. **The setting:** Look at the room your character is in. Describe it in detail. Be specific: if there are books, what kind? Why is your character here? How do they feel about it? What is the mood of the painting? Are there any signs that all may not be as it first seems? Can you see the world outside or a reflection in a mirror? How does this contrast with what is happening (or not) in the room itself? Write down all your thoughts.

Notes on **setting**:



3. **Object:** Choose an interesting object in the painting. Imagine holding it. Is it smooth, rough, cold, warm, heavy, light? Does it smell? If it spoke, how would it sound? Imagine its history (where it was created, how it got here) and what it's used for now (if that's not obvious). What does it mean to your character? How would they feel if it was lost, stolen, damaged?

Notes on an **object**:

4. **Writing a monologue:** Imagine your character sharing their thoughts and feelings about either their **setting** or the **object** out loud as if no one could hear them (a *soliloquy*.) Think about what you reveal (eg why they are in that room) and in what order. Consider holding somethings back at first to build tension.

Writing a **monologue**:

Take home activities:

- Write from the **point of view** of the object you have described. Objects can also be **characters** in a piece of creative writing – they have histories and they 'see' a lot!
- Develop a short story using one or both of your monologues. Think about who is speaking and how this affects the tone, register (formal / informal), vocabulary used etc.

