



For me, this painting highlights one of the main reasons for using art in teaching. And I mean that in many different ways. One way is coming here to somewhere like the Queen's Gallery to look at the real thing.

The other way is the ability to follow up and use additional information and resources such that you find on the LGfL website to highlight some of the things that children would see as part of a visit.

It's a spectacular painting. It's by the artist Rembrandt of a lady called Agatha Bass. Now, with any painting, it's possible to do a small amount of research that gives you a huge insight into the picture itself. She was the wife of a wool merchant. So therefore, that gives you an idea that there's an element of wealth to this person.

And I think you only need to look at that, and I think children would pick that up by just looking at the painting. If you look at the fan here and the gold that's on it and also on the front of her clothing, other elements of her clothing also kind of highlight. Lace was particularly expensive at the time this was painted, as was black silk. So every element of this is giving us lots of indications as to the sort of person that Agatha Bass was.

The beauty of this painting, though, is in the detail. And just looking at the way that the lace itself has been painted, not just to the actual detail of the lace, but the fact that Rembrandt has shown the way it curls over. Okay. So it's not absolutely perfect, the detail in the way that the folds of the silk is also shown, and that's just with the clothing.

So again, having your children sat in front of this is an amazing opportunity to look at this. As you look at the face, you can then see the subtlety in the painting if you compare it to the way you can Photoshop images. Now, this is a very realistic painting. There's slight blemishes shown on the face. They didn't have to be included, but they were.

It was a very subtle painting. But then if you look at the hair, it's quite sharp in the way that it's been done. And actually, if you look carefully, which again, you can do sat here or with a high res image going right in to look at the painting, you can see actually, the artist has used something to engrave into the paint to kind of give the idea of individual hairs.

So painting like this gives you a real opportunity to look at the finer details of a picture and start pulling it apart. As you slightly come back out, you start to notice little details, like the fact the thumb is wrapped around the frame and the fan is slightly over the side of the frame as well.

So there's really key skills that the artist has used to make this a unique painting for children to see.