



BOULEVARD

GRADES K-5

A Few Key Points

- Portraits usually show a sitter only once
- People/characters typically appear multiple times in cartoons, graphic novels and movies (but not in paintings)
- Portraiture can express status and it can serve as an historical record
- This portrait shows the many accomplishments of the sitter through multiple vignettes
- Scale is used symbolically, as is the concept of time
- In this work, the narrative runs counter-clockwise around the central figure
- Figures of *Fame* and *Death* and the *Sun* and the *Moon*, add symbolically to the sense of the sitter's importance
- Activity throughout the composition keeps the eye moving; architecture provides structure

Sparking Discussion

- Define a portrait. Are portraits just about capturing appearance or likeness?
- How many times does a subject typically appear in his/her portrait?/What about in the case of *Sir Henry Unton*?
- In what situation/or genre might we expect to see a person/character appear repeatedly?
- What age do you think the central figure of Sir Henry is? Why was that age chosen?
- How does the composition show a sense of Sir Henry's importance/authority?
- What are some of the elements that reflect his status?
- Why do you think that not all figures are presented at the same size?
- What function do the figures of *Fame* and *Death* serve?
- Why do the Sun and the Moon appear in the same painting?
- How is the idea of time conveyed?
- How does architecture function in the composition?
- Why do words appear in the painting?
- How might it change the portrait if it were vertical in orientation?
- Why does the painting include so many scenes?

- Which part of Sir Henry’s life do you find most interesting? Which do you find the most curious?

Activities

1. A Symbolic Portrait

Using whatever medium you like (pencil, markers, pastels, crayons, or paint), on a horizontal sheet of paper, in the middle of the composition, create a large ½ length portrait of yourself. Surround your portrait with four objects or symbols that you feel are important and express something about who you are (for example: what you like to eat, what you enjoy doing with your time, and/or which people, animals, toys, or other things you care about.)

- For a more complex assignment, have students take the further step of including symbols/or illustrations of three locations that have meaning to them, somewhere in their portrait. Share with the class.

2. A Life in Three Scenes

Draw a picture that includes three different episodes from your life – include a representation of yourself in each of these scenes. They can all be the same size or vary in scale. The format can be horizontal or vertical.

- Older students can write a ½ -1 page (total) explaining what each of the three scenes depicts and how they are connected. Share with the class.

3. A Feast for the Eyes

In one of the painting’s most festive scenes of the painting, Sir Henry Unton and his wife Dorothy are shown at a long table at their home, Wadley House, throwing a banquet for their friends. Research what foods were eaten during this time in British history referred to as the Tudor Period. Compare this to foods you eat at home or to foods you enjoy eating at a special event or party.

- Younger students can make a list. Older students can share their findings in the form of complete sentences.

4. Eleven Sir Henry Untons – Expanding the Story

Including the large portrait in the center of the painting, Sir Henry Unton appears ten times. The nine smaller scenes show events of his life and death. Look closely at each of these scenes. Listen to the audio and/or read about what each represents. Your task is to think up and write about a new scene you would add somewhere between Unton’s birth and burial. Imagine something that Henry Unton did or an event that

involved him. Write 2 pages describing your new scene –describe in detail what took place as well as how it could be illustrated.

- A follow-up exercise could include drawing the new scene.

5. What Are They Saying?

Pick one of the following three scenes: Sir Henry’s birth, the banquet and masque performance taking place at Wadley House, or the deathbed scene, showing Henry being treated by the French king’s physician. Think about what the scene shows and what discussion that might be taking place. Imagine you are creating the script for a movie or adding voices to a movie that has none recorded. Write out the dialogue happening between the major figures represented (at least 3 people should be in conversation). Use names (or indicate the person’s profession/role) and quotes around their speech to indicate who is saying what. If applicable, describe how they are saying it –in a whisper, loudly, etc. and feel free to add context in between the speaking parts. Your assignment should be 2 pages long.