



Maquette of the monument to Joseph Gascoigne and Lady Elizabeth Nightingale, 1758

Under 11 activity – Christianity in 10 objects



What do you see in this picture?

What story do you think it is telling?

What do you think the object is?

Before creating the monument to Joseph Gascoigne and Lady Elizabeth Nightingale that stands in Westminster Abbey today, Louis-Francois Roubiliac made a maquette, a small model of his sculptural masterpiece. In the sculpture, Joseph is struggling to let go of his dead wife and move onto the next chapter in his life.

Talk to others

Are there moments in your life when you've had to let go?

Perhaps you moved away from your home and loved ones? Changed school? Lost someone?

Activity: Develop your artist skills

Artists often practice creating their pieces before making the real thing. It can help them to think about which materials, colours, shapes and textures work best and even what order to create their work in.

Building your skills as an artist takes time but you can improve your skills with some simple exercises.

1. Train your artist's eye.

Look carefully at the image of the maquette.

- Pick out all of the curved lines in the image and draw them onto a piece of paper.
- On a new sheet try the horizontal lines (the lines that go across).
- Then try the vertical lines (the lines that go up and down).

Challenge:

- Try this again only looking at the image (without looking at your piece of paper).

2. Texture

The sculpture is made using lots of different textures. Some parts of the sculpture look smooth, whilst others look rough or bumpy.

Recreate these textures on a piece of paper.

- Think about how you can change how you use your pencil to create different texture effects.
- How hard will you press on the page? How thick or thin are your lines? Which side of your pencil will you use?
- Use these new skills to draw your own version of the maquette



Extension

Change is a part of life. You might remember big changes in your life like starting school or joining a club. You may not have known exactly what was going to happen and it might have been a bit scary. There might have been things that helped you get used to the idea of change, such as conversations with grown-ups, reading a book or taking your favourite toy with you.

You might have a change coming up. Why not get creative and make something that helps you prepare for that change? You could make a sculpture using scraps and recycling, draw, paint or even write something.

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