

Notes for Teachers

How to use this resource

Encourage your students to follow our research journey by reading through the resource.

They will encounter a selection of prompt questions and activities as they go through, which will encourage them to reflect on what they are reading.

5. Who was Kate Gough?

The painting's object file in the Fitzwilliam led to some exciting discoveries about the sitters and their family. We were able to make contact with some of their descendants via email, and discovered that Kate was herself an artist and photographer. A major breakthrough in our project came via a google search, when we discovered that there was an album of photo-collages by Kate in the collection of the [Victoria & Albert Museum \(V&A\)](#) in London.

We visited the V&A to see this extraordinary, imaginative, funny book first hand, and get an idea of how it was made and used by Kate. We were struck by its weight and the expensive leather binding, as well as the contents, which were marvellously detailed.

We were able to take photographs of the parts of the book that we were interested in, some of which weren't available online. Explore this image in more detail.

How does it compare with Millais' painting of the girls?

Discovering Kate

By talking to the curators at the V&A, we found out that many aristocratic Victorian women created albums of photo-collages like this in their spare time. They would then bring them out to entertain friends and family at social events.

After our visit to the V&A we did some more research into Victorian photo-collage and discovered that there had been an [exhibition](#) on the subject at the Metropolitan Museum in New York in 2010, in which Kate's album had been included. This helped us put her work into context and we realised this was another potential avenue for research.

By analysing and comparing sources within your own research project, you might discover new ideas or routes to explore. This can be used as evidence of critical analysis, with clear links made to appropriate theories and concepts within your EPQ.

Now you've found a little out about Kate, look back at the painting. Does it change how you look at her? What else would you like to know? How might you go about finding out?

Consider which research material would be most suitable to follow your line of enquiry.

6. Why are they wearing those outfits?

We were interested to find out why the twins were shown wearing such similar outfits in the painting. Who might they have been influenced by?

Conversations with colleagues at the Fitzwilliam Museum led to a suggestion that their clothes could have been influenced by the Danish Princesses Alexandra and Dagmar. And indeed photographs of this pair that we found in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of London, do show them dressed in a very similar way.

Do you think they could have influenced Kate and Grace Hoare?

In Kate's photo album, we found another image of her with Grace, both wearing polka-dot dresses. In this photo their pose is very similar to that in the painting by Millais.

So, our research started with a careful examination of the painting, which prompted us to find out more about the sitters and the artist. Our investigation then led us to explore the broader social context and fashion of the time.

Where would you suggest that we go next with our investigation?