

Module 1

Love and Family

Mr and Mrs Andrews



Can we imagine we know Mr and Mrs Andrews.

What do we think of them? How old do you think they might be and what are they like when not sitting for a painting?

Do you think they like doing ordinary things and would be easy to get on with or do you think they might be a bit stuck up and superior, perhaps not very friendly to everyone?

Do you think they get on well with each other or do they have different interests and like doing their own thing? Does Mrs Andrews like shooting? Who do you think the dog favours?

Is it easier for an artist to compose a picture with a group or just two people or maybe even one. Has he managed to make them both important? Is the picture about them or the landscape?

Gainsborough liked painting landscapes, but he couldn't afford to just do that. Perhaps it was Mr Andrews who wanted to show off all his land and his estate. Perhaps he wanted to show off his wife?

How do people succeed nowadays in showing off their possessions and the people they share their lives with.?

Do you think they were comfortable sitting there – the sky looks as if it might rain. Do you think it was all painted out of doors or could they have taken up that position in a studio or in their house and then the two views be put together

Is Mrs Andrews looking at the artist or her husband or perhaps wondering what the dog will do next?

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/thomas-gainsborough-mr-and-mrs-andrews#VideoPlayer96464>