

BOY WITH A DRAGON

Go to the East Pavilion, Plaza Level, Gallery E101



Title: Boy with a Dragon
Artist: Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Italian)
Date: 1614–1620
Medium: Marble

TEACHER/CHAPERONE READ ALOUD:

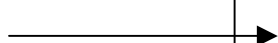
- This is a sculpture of a boy wrestling a dragon.
- The boy could be Hercules, a Greek hero famous for his strength.
- This sculpture was intended to work as a fountain with water bubbling out of the dragon's mouth.
- Sculptures are meant to be seen from many different angles.
- Walk around the sculpture and look at it from different places.
- Follow the dragon's body with your eyes. Where is his tail?
- Can you see the dragon's foot stepping on the boy's foot?
- Look at the boy's face. Is wrestling this dragon easy or hard for Hercules? Is he having fun?

CREATE YOUR OWN IMAGINARY BEAST!

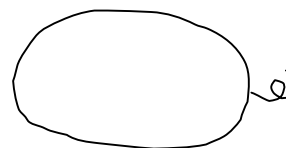
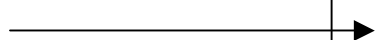
- Dragons are imaginary beasts. They have wings to fly and can breath fire out of their mouths.
- Create your own imaginary beast. Choose a head, body, and feet from three different animals.

For example:

Head of an: alligator



Body of a: pig



Feet of a: bird



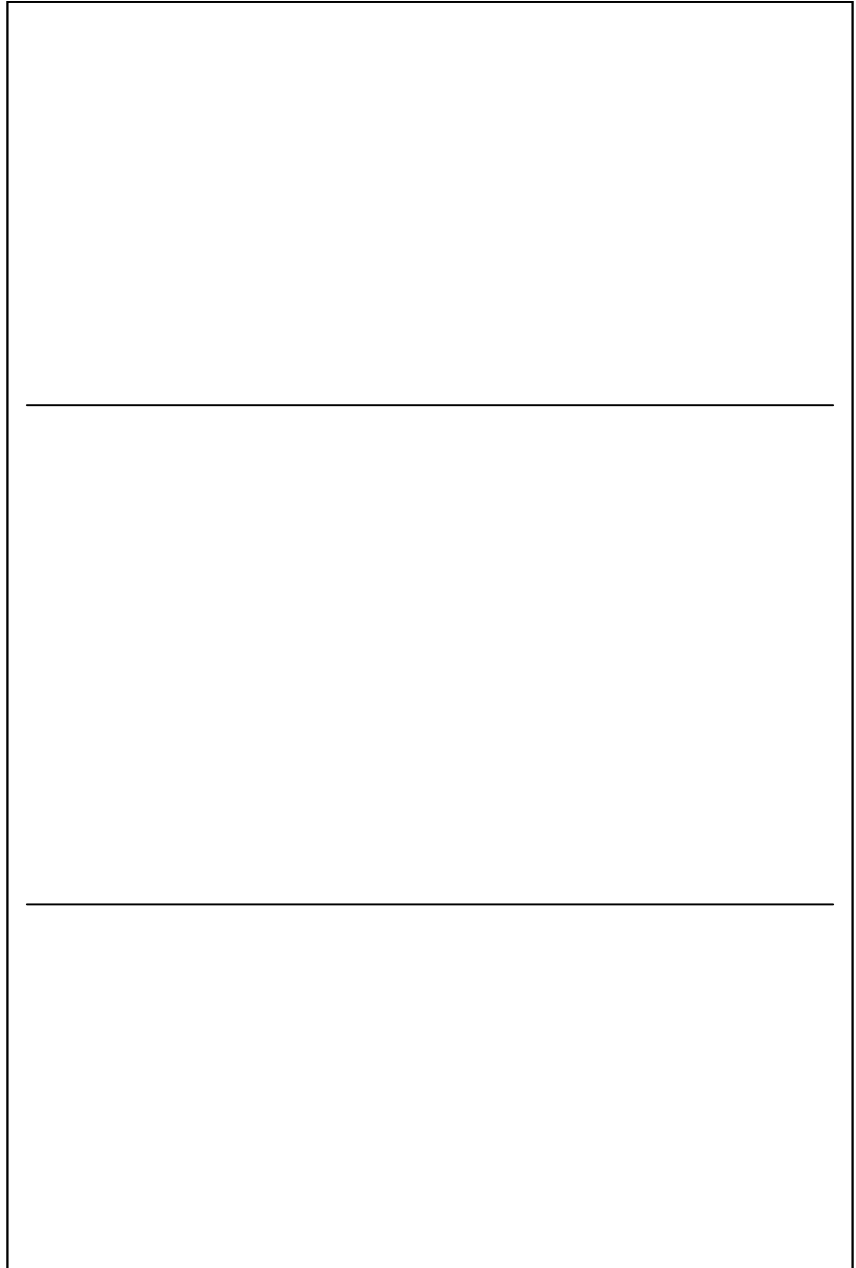
Name of this beast: "Oink-Gator"

NOW YOU TRY!

Head of a: _____

Body of a: _____

Feet of a: _____



Name of your beast: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/CHAPERONE:

- The artist was in his late teens when he carved this marble boy with a dragon.
- Even at this young age, Bernini was such a skilled marble sculptor that he could differentiate the textures of pudgy flesh, soft hair, waves of water, and dragon scales.
- The infant Hercules, who demonstrated his divine strength even as a small child by slaying poisonous serpents, appears here as a mischievous boy who smiles, sits on the dragon, and breaks its jaw with his bare hands – seemingly with no effort at all!