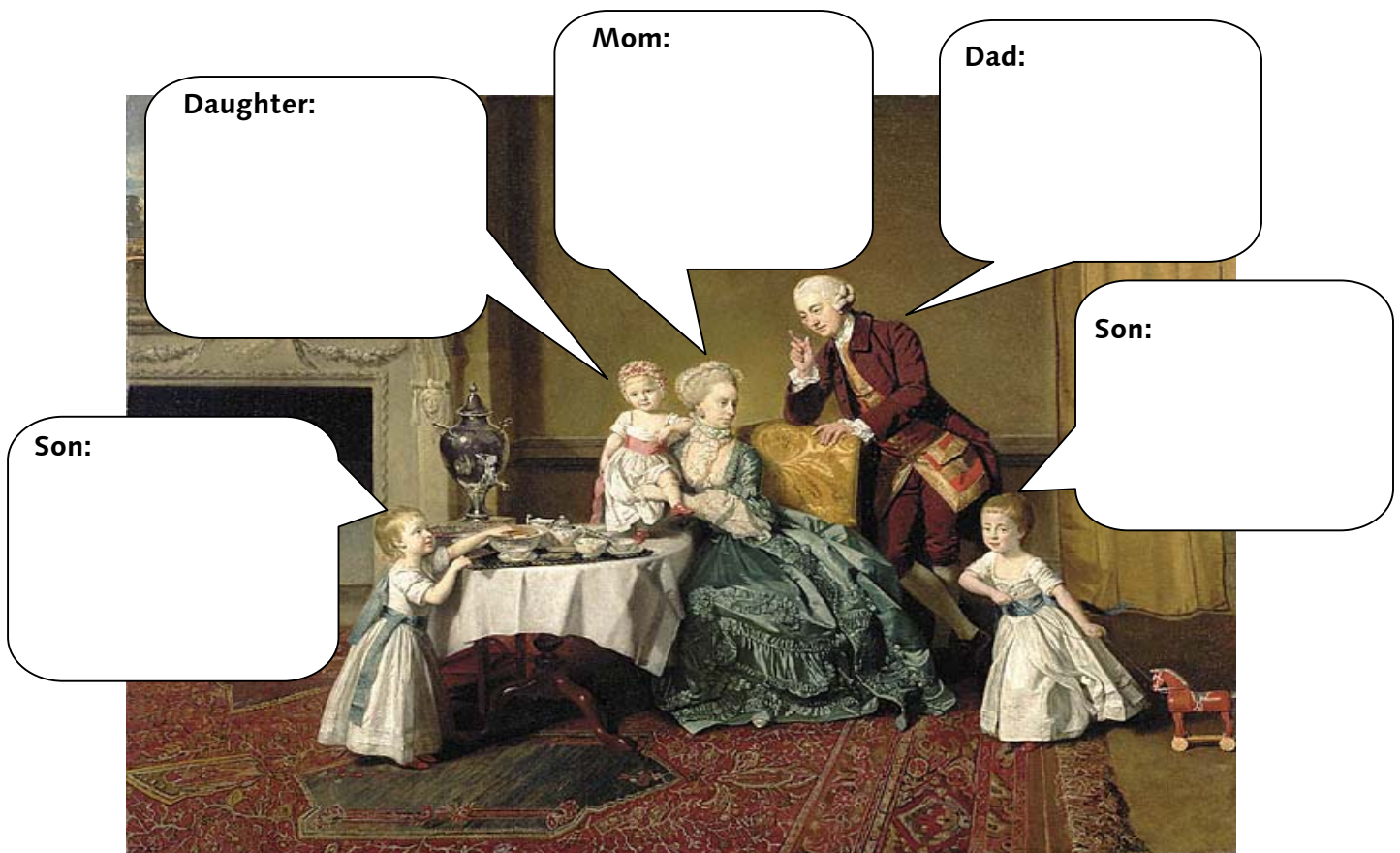


TEA TIME

Go to the South Pavilion, Upper Level, Gallery S204

TEACHER/CHAPERONE READ ALOUD:

- This painting shows a family having tea. When this was painted, over 200 years ago, parents dressed boys and girls almost alike. There are three children, one girl and two boys, and they are all wearing dresses. The girl wears a pink ribbon around her waist, and the boys wear blue ribbons. Can you find them?
- Imagine if the people in this picture could talk. What would they say? Think about when you have lunch at school or dinner at home. What do you talk about with your friends and family?
- Write or talk about what each character would say, like in a comic book. Share your ideas with your classmates.



Title: John, Fourteenth Lord Willoughby de Broke, and his Family
Artist: Johann Zoffany (English)
Date: 1766
Medium: Oil on canvas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/CHAPERONE

- This type of informal group portrait was called a "conversation piece," which was a new style of painting introduced in England in the 1700s.
- Instead of perceiving children as unformed adults, for the first time, in the 18th century, childhood was seen as a distinct stage of development. The idea of play and childishness is celebrated in this painting. The central placement of Lady Louisa North in the composition also emphasizes the importance and significance of motherhood.
- In this picture, John Peyto and his wife appear about to take tea with their three young children. She holds her daughter, who stands on the table attempting a first step. In high spirits, one son enters on the right pulling a bright-red toy horse. Another son tries to take a piece of buttered bread from the table while receiving an admonishing gesture from his father.
- The artist took care to include the details of the gentry's lives: Lady Louisa's shimmering light-blue gown, the landscape painting above the fireplace mantel, the fine porcelain tea service, and the reflections on the highly polished silver urn.