

Writing a Vignette from a Painting
Ms. Karen Moynihan

Look at the painting *Housemaid* (1910) by William McGregor Paxton, an American painter. If you cannot see it below, it is available on <http://www.bertc.com/subsix/g138/paxton1.htm>

Take some notes about what you see in the painting. It was painted in 1910. Think about the housemaid, her manner of dress, her posture, her appearance. What is her task? What interrupted that task? What can you gather about her employer based on the objects in the painting? What can you gather about her?

As the viewer, you have caught her in the moment. She is unaware of your gaze. Write a vignette about her. The vignette should be approximately 500 to 1000 words.

You may write your vignette in the voice of someone who views the maid, or in the voice of the viewer of the painting.

Submit your notes with your vignette. The notes do not have to be typed, but type the vignette. Make sure you have an appropriate title.

