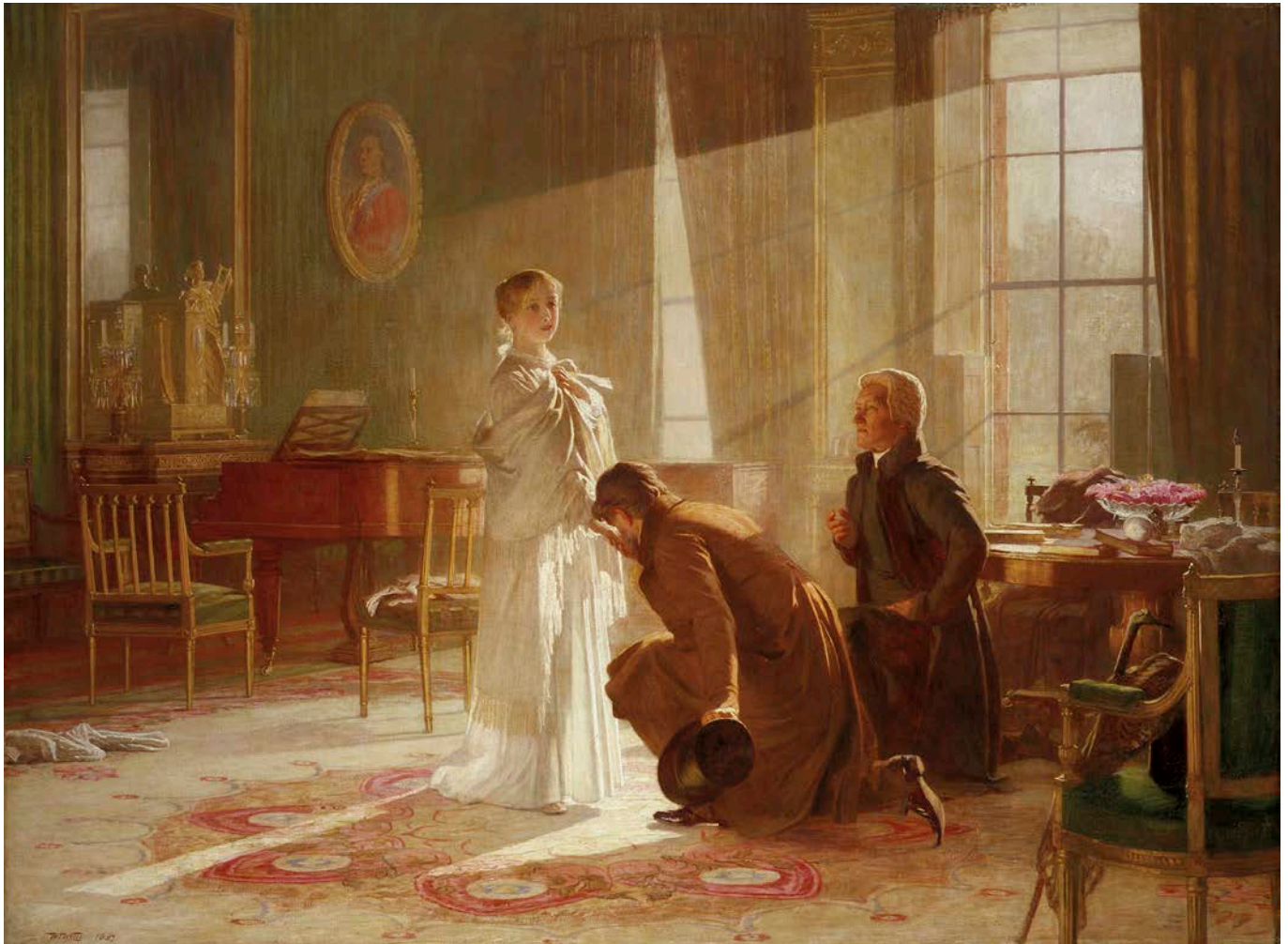


'Palace in Waiting' Lesson 2: Victoria becomes Queen



Curriculum focus – History and Literacy – Atmospheric Writing

This painting shows the moment when Victoria's life will change forever: the moment when she receives the news at Kensington Palace that her Uncle has died and that she is now Queen.

Look at the painting and read the Teachers' Notes and discuss the characters in the painting:

- What do we notice about the use of sunlight and shadows?
- How does the sunlight affect the scene?
- What details do the beams of light pick up?
- What time of day is it?

Does the fact that Victoria is in her nightgown change the way you think about this moment? Discuss her posture, the kneeling men and the way she holds her robe.

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Lesson 2: Victoria becomes Queen

Consider what her life had been like until that moment. She was never allowed to be alone and was isolated from other children. She had to sleep in the same room as her mother. She could not even walk up or downstairs unaccompanied. In what ways do you think her life is going to change?

Group/Individual Writing Task – Atmospheric Writing

Tell the class they are going to try and capture the atmosphere of that moment in words. Begin with describing the light in the room. Ask for suggestions and encourage them to use all their senses. How would we describe the scent of the flowers, the Archbishop’s wig or the smell of smoke from the candle?

When you have modelled a couple of sentences on the whiteboard, ask the pupils to create their own piece of atmospheric writing. Encourage them to use all their senses and similes where appropriate.