



# CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Edward VI

## PORTRAIT OF KING EDWARD VI

This portrait of the young boy-king Edward VI may be on an intimate scale, but no expense has been spared in the making of it. The scarlet of Edward's doublet has been under-layed with silver leaf, giving it a shimmer to suggest the effect of 'cloth of gold'. Cloth of gold was the fabric of kings; spun from genuine precious metal, it was woven using vertical (warp) threads of (red) silk, and horizontal (weft) threads of gold or silver. The resulting sheen was notoriously difficult to capture in paint, and the use of silver-leaf here beneath the crimson pigment is ingenious. Furthermore, the gold embroidery and chain of office have also been applied with gold leaf.

The composition is a unique blend of elements from different likenesses of Edward by the artist. Our version has the young king in a plumed hat, uniquely bejeweled. His red and gold doublet is entirely different from other works, and he also wears a gold chain of office.



- What can we learn about somebody from their portrait?

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- **Passive voice**

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## Expanded noun phrases