THE ARTICULATE OBJECT:
READING ARTIFACTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES AND COMMON CORE TEXTS

An object is a visual text. Students learn to identify information located in a written source, then to prioritize, hypothesize, confirm, and compare that information. The same process can be used to examine an object or an image:

- What is this?
- What do you see?
- What is it made of?
- Who is this?
- Who made it?
- Where is it from?
- When is it from?
- How was it made?
- Why was it made?
- How was it used?
- Why was it saved?
- How does it compare with others?
- How does it connect with my life?

CC Reading Standards
for Informational Text, 6-12

1. Cite textual [visual] evidence to support analysis of what the text [object] says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text [object].

2. Determine the central idea of a text [object] and how it is conveyed through particular details.

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases [images, patterns, symbols, colors, size] and how they are used in a text [object], including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings [cultural, religious, historical, or personal].

6. Determine an author’s [artist’s] point of view or purpose in a text [object] and explain how it is conveyed in the text [object] as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

9. Compare and contrast one author’s [artist’s or culture’s] presentation of events [use of technology, use of materials, interpretation of object] with that of another.

Pictured: 1st century Roman Togatus, Marion Stratton Gould Fund, 73.146