BOY WITH A DRAGON
Go to the East Pavilion, Plaza Level, Gallery E101

Title: Boy with a Dragon
Artist: Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Italian)
Date: 1614–1620
Medium: Marble

TEACHER/CHAPERONE READ ALOUD:
• This is a sculpture of a boy wrestling a dragon.
• The boy could be Hercules, a Greek hero famous for his strength.
• This sculpture was intended to work as a fountain with water bubbling out of the dragon's mouth.
• Sculptures are meant to be seen from many different angles.
• Walk around the sculpture and look at it from different places.
• Follow the dragon's body with your eyes. Where is his tail?
• Can you see the dragon's foot stepping on the boy's foot?
• Look at the boy's face. Is wrestling this dragon easy or hard for Hercules? Is he having fun?

CREATE YOUR OWN IMAGINARY BEAST!
• Dragons are imaginary beasts. They have wings to fly and can breath fire out of their mouths.
• Create your own imaginary beast. Choose a head, body, and feet from three different animals.
  For example:

  Head of an: alligator

  Body of a: pig

  Feet of a: bird

  Name of this beast: "Oink-Gator"
NOW YOU TRY!

Head of a: ____________

Body of a: ____________

Feet of a: ____________

Name of your beast: ____________________________________________________________
BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/CHAPERONE:

• The artist was in his late teens when he carved this marble boy with a dragon.

• Even at this young age, Bernini was such a skilled marble sculptor that he could differentiate the textures of pudgy flesh, soft hair, waves of water, and dragon scales.

• The infant Hercules, who demonstrated his divine strength even as a small child by slaying poisonous serpents, appears here as a mischievous boy who smiles, sits on the dragon, and breaks its jaw with his bare hands – seemingly with no effort at all!