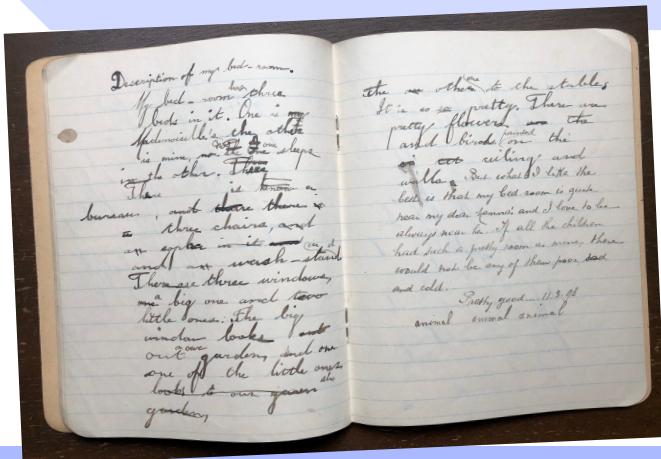


# A Description of My Bedroom

Helen Clay Frick grew up in Pittsburgh over 100 years ago. She was educated in her home, which was common for girls of her age and social standing at that time. Helen was taught by a governess named Marika Ogiz, who Helen called Mademoiselle. A governess is like a teacher and nanny in one, and Helen and Mademoiselle were very close. In 1898, Mademoiselle Ogiz assigned a writing assignment, in which Helen described her bedroom and what she liked about it. You can read what Helen wrote below.

"My bed-room has three beds in it. One is Mademoiselle's, the other is mine, no one sleeps in the other. There is a bureau, three chairs, and a sofa in it and a wash stand. There are three windows, a big one and two little ones. The big window looks out on our garden, and one of the little ones also, the other one to the stables. It is so so pretty. There are pretty flowers and birds painted on the ceiling and walls. But what I like the best is that my bedroom is quite near my dear Mamma's and I love to be always near her. If all the children had such a pretty room as mine, there would not be any of them poor, sad, and cold."



Helen's original essay (1898). Courtesy of The Frick Art & Historical Center.



Helen Clay Frick and her dog (top), courtesy of The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library. Helen's bedroom in Clayton (bottom), courtesy of The Frick Art & Historical Center.

Now it's your turn! On another piece of paper, complete Mademoiselle Ogiz's writing assignment by describing your bedroom and what you like most about it. What does your room look like? Do you share the room with someone? What is your favorite thing about your room, and why?

