



ALDIE MANSION VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR

CREATE YOUR OWN GROTESQUE

In architecture, a **grotesque** is a fantastic or mythical figure used for decorative purposes. It often combines human, animal, mythical and even plant features to form a bizarre, sometimes ugly, comical, or menacing result. **Gargoyles** are special types of grotesques that direct water away from buildings.

Aldie Mansion has 5 grotesques, each depicting a different character. Our best guesses suggest that there is one that is part seahorse, another part human, a third part lion, a fourth part dog and a fifth part cat.

One of those grotesques, shown below, has a special story. It went missing for over 25 years. On the morning of May 7, 2014, it mysteriously reappeared in the parking lot with a handwritten note that read, "I belong on the roof..." Do you know what Heritage Conservancy did next? They put it back on the roof! Use the link below to read the entire story.

<https://heritageconservancy.org/aldie-mansions-long-missing-statue-mysteriously-finds-its-way-home/>



Extension Activity:

Create a story about the adventures of Aldie Mansion's mysterious, traveling grotesque!

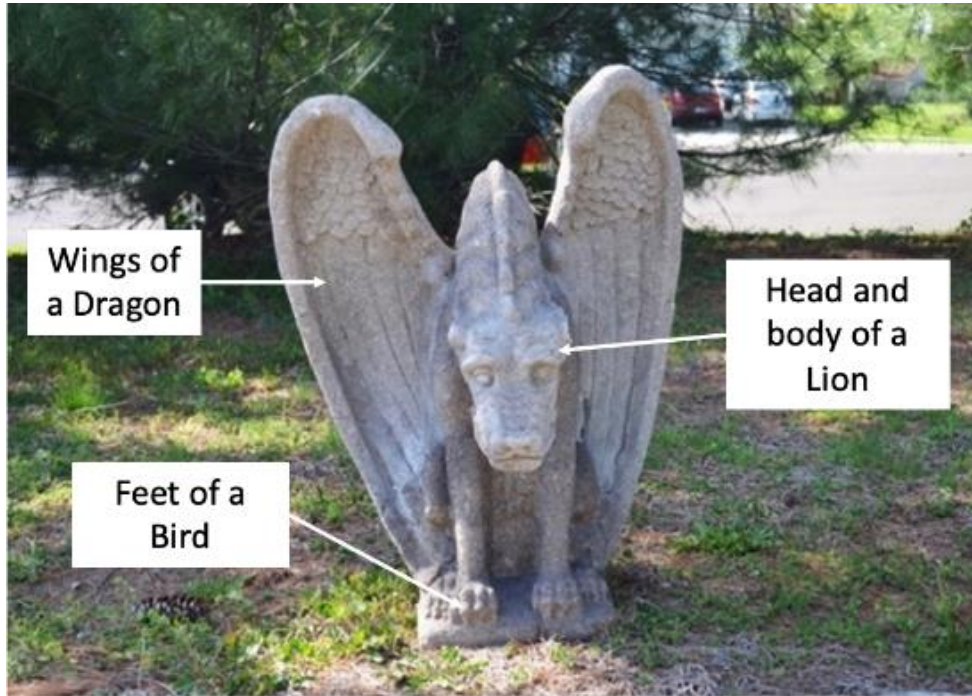
- Where do you think this grotesque was for the last 25 years?
- What do you think it saw?
- What do you think it did?
- Write a story describing its experiences. Don't forget to give this fantastic creature a name!

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Create Your Own Grotesque Activity:

1. Take a closer look at the features of Aldie Mansion's wandering grotesque. It is made up of elements of at least three different creatures!



2. You can use the ideas on the next page to help you get started, but use your creativity to make your final creation.
3. Draw your grotesque on a piece of paper or sculpt it with modelling compound such as Play Doh or clay.
4. Don't forget to give your grotesque a name!

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CREATE YOUR OWN GROTESQUE

Ideas for Elements of Your Grotesque:

- Will your grotesque be just a head?



Human?



Animal?



Zombie?



Darth Vader?



Unicorn?

- How about adding a body?



Clown?



Animal?



Dragon?



Fairy?



Eagle?

- Will your grotesque have hands or feet?



Human Hands?



Bear Paws?



Eagle Claws?



Shoes?

- How will you put it all together?

