

# THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE MUSEUM

## DOLLHOUSE, 1837

*American*

*Wood and paint exterior*

*Eugene Field House*

Focus: Observation, gender roles, design, comparison

Getting Started: As a child, did you ever play “house”? Have you ever watched young children play “house”? What can you learn about a child by eavesdropping on their play? What other types of imaginative play do you remember from your childhood? How do you think imaginary play with a doll house is similar or different? What other opportunities might a doll house make possible? What sorts of things do children learn from these activities? Make a list. Now, look closely at the image of the dollhouse.

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Observation, descriptive writing, and discussion: What do you notice about this doll house? Make lists on the board and compare and contrast the two rooms. What questions do you have? List them.

Thinking back to the discussion at the start of the lesson, what might children learn about everyday life from this dollhouse? Make a list. Imagine you are one of the doll figures; write about either what you’re planning to do next or what you’re doing right now. Take turns reading them aloud. What more do you notice after listening? Discuss. Now read and discuss the essay on the dollhouse.

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA4, CA6, SS6; 1.6, 2.1, 2.4, 3.3, 1.4

Observation, comparison, and analysis: (additional materials needed—photos, advertisements, or an actual modern dollhouse)

Look again at the historical dollhouse. After making a simple sketch of the dollhouse, list the household items found in each room. Compare your list with the person next to you. Next, make a chart then, compare these items with one of the modern dollhouses

