



## Provençal conversation

This painting shows Stella's friends in the south of France, enjoying one of their many leisurely afternoon conversations. Stella loved the good food, company and climate of France. While living in England during the 1930s she often returned there for extended working holidays.

- Describe the relationships between the four people, giving reasons for your answers.
- How many circular shapes can you find in this painting? What is the effect of this use of circles?

### **Look again**

- Why has the garden been included? How does it contribute to the mood of the painting? How does this garden compare with your garden at home?

**Activity:** It is the late 1930s in France; the people in this group are artists or writers. Find out what was happening at the time, in art, literature and politics, and imagine what this group's "provençal conversation" might have been. Consider writing a one-act play or story based on their conversation.

*Painted in Cagnes-sur-Mer, France, 1936, oil on canvas, 63.7 x 72.3 cm, private collection.*