

Self Portrait in Action

2 Days

- Principle:** Drawing an expressive self portrait
- Concept:** A self-portrait can be more than just a painting or drawing of one's face.
- Objective:** To have students draw a large self-portrait of themselves doing something that they love to do (i.e. reading, riding a bike, skiing, playing soccer, painting, playing with Legos, playing with a pet, playing the piano, eating an ice cream cone, etc.).

Supplies:

Day 1

- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ 8 ½ x 11 plain white paper
- ✓ Sharpies (the medium and large tip pens)

Day 2

- ✓ 18"x24" White poster board
- ✓ Acrylic paints
- ✓ Brushes "A"
- ✓ paint palettes – Acrylic paint dries quickly
- ✓ Water tubs
- ✓ Paper towels to blot brushes if they get too wet

Set-up:

Day 1

- 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Pencils
- White Poster Board (on hand)
- Sharpies (on hand)

Day 2

- Distribute poster board and sharpies.
- Have water bowls and brushes out on the tables.
- Set out the acrylic paints on paint palettes. Acrylic paint dries really fast so don't set the paint out a head of time. Instead, when students are ready to paint, have them tell you what colors they want.
- You may need to push tables out of the way to create extra floor space for students to paint on.

Prints:

Samples: See Second Grade Art Folder

Lesson: **The purpose of this lesson is to draw a self-portrait that reflects the child's heart doing something they enjoy. Something they enjoy.**

Day 1

1. Discuss with students things they like to do (for example: swimming, baking cookies, reading, playing sports, etc.). Make a list on the chalkboard. Have students share with their neighbor 5 things they like to do.
2. Have students sketch themselves doing one of the activities they discussed with their neighbor (with pencils and on a scale they are comfortable with. Some students may draw themselves large on the paper and some students may draw themselves small on the paper.) They can draw on their page either vertically or horizontally. You can talk about what viewpoint they will draw themselves. Full front, side view or rear view like playing the piano. We don't want a lot of detail at this point. Discourage them from drawing just one part of their body, for example drawing just their feet with a soccer ball (we want to see their whole body). If it's a game they love like soccer, tell them to draw themselves with the soccer ball (kicking it, next to it, whatever) just do not draw the whole team. The focus is all on them. We want them to draw large and simple. It's okay to have their drawing visually move off the page. If a child gets frustrated trying to draw something, you can show them on the chalkboard or on a piece of paper next to the child how to make things by just drawing simple shapes. Everything is made up of simple shapes.
3. Once their sketch is finished, have a parent helper enlarge (at least 400%) on the copy machine the main focus of their drawing at onto a 11 x17 piece of paper. This process will give students a visual of how large their final drawing should be (see sample in 2nd grade sample folder).
4. Once the Xerox has been made, direct students to copy their drawing onto the poster board in either pencil or sharpie (whatever the student is comfortable with) the scale of their Xerox copy. This guides the artist to know how large they need to draw on their poster board. They can also make any changes they see fit as they redraw their portrait. If students draw using a pencil, remind them they will need to go over their drawing with a sharpie. Because of the size of the poster board, students may need to move into the hall or on the floor to draw.
5. If a student makes a "mistake" drawing with the black pen, let them know that mistakes are good and can be changed into something else. Be Creative. Sometimes the most wonderful art starts with a "mistake". Teach them to look at their "mistakes" in a different way, an artistic way, where they can turn what they don't like into something else. Explain that they will also be painting their portraits and paint can hide lines they want to hide. Let the children know they can draw!! There is no right or wrong way...only the creative, artistic way!

Have the students write their names on the back of the drawings.

Day 2

1. Tell students today they will be painting their portraits.
2. Explain what acrylic paint is (an expensive liquid plastic that dries quickly and will ruin clothes and brushes if not rinsed out before it dries!). Students should be told this fact NOW because they need to know it for the rest of their art careers.

2. Before they start to paint, talk about how they may want to have one color in just a few areas of their painting or they might want to fill in the entire background with a wash of color. Demonstrate how they can have a very wet brush with just a little paint to create a wash of color or have a very dry brush (dry after rinsing) to create darker color. Using just water, they can wet their paper and then apply paint to create a wash for larger areas. A little bit of paint goes a LONG way. Demonstrate how to add water and thin the paint. Remind them to be careful not to cover up their line drawings. We want to see some of their original pen lines.
3. Have them title their art and write this on a label and stick to the back of the paper.
4. Have fun! It's always nice to play music while they are painting. Classical music works great for self-portraits, but it's up to you!

Instructions for Instructors

Vocabulary: **Self-Portrait** – a drawing or a painting of oneself