

KS3 & 4: Clues to You



Artsmark is 20 years old! During Artsmark Celebration Week we're sharing your #Artsmark20 stories showcasing the incredible impact creativity has had in your school and on your pupils.



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This #Artsmark20 resource for key stage 3 and 4 is designed to support pupils to explore themselves through creativity and reflect on their own 'story'.

1 Discussion:

Encourage discussion around identity and the different ways we express who we are, in day-to-day life and in art.



2 Creative activities:

Try out one or more of the creative ideas below to explore the themes and examples you've discussed.



3 Showcase:

Display pupils' artwork in school and share photos or videos on social media – make sure you've got consent and tag us @Artsmarkaward #Artsmark20



Discussion:



What do we mean by identity

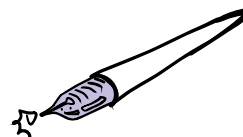
What are the things that make us who we are, and how do we express them? Are they always obvious and outward-facing? You might talk about the ways we present ourselves, like how we dress, how we appear on social media.

Expressing the self through art

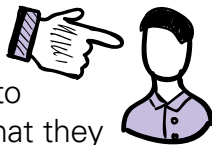
Throughout history artists, musicians, writers and more have used their art to explore and reflect their identity. The ways in which they work give us clues about who they are, what they care about, and how they feel about themselves and the world around them.



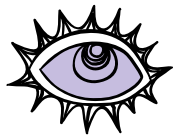
Share some examples of self-portraits. You might look at a traditional example in visual art, and some modern examples that don't involve a face at all. Ask pupils for suggestions of other art forms that could be a self-portrait like a song, poem or photograph. What aspects of the artworks give clues to the person who made it? Consider both the content and the techniques used.



What are the clues to you?

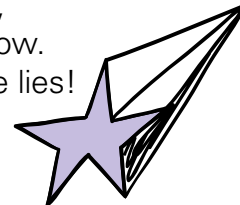


Exercise 1: Ask for a volunteer to share a fact about themselves that they are confident everyone in the group already knows. Then ask for a volunteer to share something about them that they are sure very few people know, like a hidden skill or a quirky fact.



Is what we show outwardly always the most truthful representation of ourselves? Does it depend on who is looking at us? Discuss what other things are important to our identity, and how external influences might shape us.

Exercise 2: Ask your pupils to write, sketch or doodle answers to the below. They can answer truthfully or include lies!



- Your favourite hobby
- Something you're good at
- Something or someone important to you
- A place or space that's important to you
- If I were an animal, I would be...

Ask for a show of hands to see how many found a question difficult to answer. Ask how many pupils included a lie. Do we always want to reveal the truth about us? Do we always know the answers ourselves?

Creative activities:

Choose a creative activity which builds on your discussion and the examples you've looked at. You could use one of the suggestions below or devise your own.



1. Create a self-portrait. You could use a mirror to help, or use a curved, crumpled or distorted reflective surface. Create this version of you, thinking about how it might hide, reveal, or misrepresent you. Think about your use of colour, your pencil or brushstrokes, as clues to you. You could make a collage using words and images from magazines, or even make a model. Be as creative as you like!

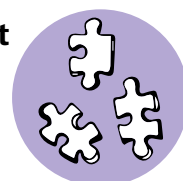


2. Write a self-portrait poem, rap, song or story about you. Think about how you can use language, rhythm and rhyme to conceal or reveal clues about you.



3. Write a diary entry or a letter to someone important about your identity. Think about the significance of private writing, and what would happen if it was public. How easy or difficult it is to write what you want, knowing it could be seen by others? Write two copies – one that you'll share, and one that you'll keep just for you. What are the differences, if any? Note down your observations to share with your first copy.

4. Design a game or puzzle about yourself, for others to work out or put together using 'clues'. It could be a board game, jigsaw or a quiz. You could even design a video game. What makes the game difficult?

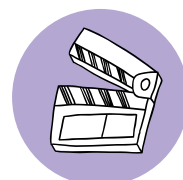


5. Capture a space or place that reflects something about you.

It could be your bed, a corner of a room, or somewhere outdoors. It might be somewhere you go to on your own, or where you hang out with friends. Does it already exist, or do you need to create this space and bring in objects, lighting and colour, to make it your own? Capture it – take a photo, video, sketch or write about it.



6. Make a 1 or 2-minute film on your phone, about you. You might appear in it or stay behind the camera. It could be a documentary-style film, a music video or have a script. You might film yourself being creative in another way – performing a spoken word poem or painting your self-portrait!



Showcase: Submit to our [online Artsmark20 gallery](#) and share on social media #CelebrateArtsmark #Artsmark20

