

CULMINATING TASK: Responsive Writing

Purpose:

- To nurture individual responses to artists' work; and
- To encourage creative writing.

Steps:

1. Ask students to choose the iconic photograph that means the most to them. Then write a poem from the point of view of a person in the photo.

2. The poem will be a self-portrait

When imagining that you are a person in one of these photos, do not concentrate on physical features. Instead, compare yourself to any one of a number of things: the weather, a season, a colour, a number, an object.

Here's an example of a self-portrait by a student writing about herself:

Myself

I am a play,
With all the laughter and tears
Hidden backstage:
I am all the characters –
The heroine that I want to be,
the villain that I sometimes stoop to,
and the scenery,
the sun and the stars,
and the dingy slum buildings:
I am the brilliant scenes
and the clumsy, ashamed mistakes:
I am a play.

Source: L.F. Dunton High School, Montreal, published in Powell, Brian. (1976)
Their Own Special Shape. Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, Ltd.