

“Meet Me in the Middle”



Objective: Explore facial proportions and value shading to complete a self-portrait

Materials

- Grayscale image of each student, printed on 8.5"x11" paper, cropped down the middle
- Pencils and Erasers
- Mirrors (optional)

Motivation

- Teach or review how to draw facial features.
- Discuss symmetry and asymmetry.
- Have students observe and investigate the different values in their photographs.
- Demonstrate and practice shading. Using “real” drawing tools is a big motivator for elementary students!

Step 1: Practice and Sketch

Set up a face using face-mapping lines and techniques. Review how to draw realistic eyes, ears, noses and mouths using these lines to help with proportion. Practice realistic hair, using a variety of lines for the strands.

Step 2: Set Up Drawing

Hand out the students’ cropped faces. Use a ruler to line up their eye line, nose line, mouth line, and brow line based on the half of the photo that is there. Have students study the shape of their face and work to make it symmetrical, but not a perfect oval. Once these face-mapping lines are drawn, students may add their realistic features.

Step 3: Fill in Values

Have students create a simple value scale of 5 – 7 grays. They will use this to help determine the pressure needed when matching and drawing the different values on their faces. Students are encouraged to start their shading lightly and smooth the pencil lines with their fingers.

Tip: Encourage students to “draw light until they’ve got it right” to minimize eraser marks.

Tip: Sometimes it’s easier to see value changes if you squint your eyes. Encourage your students to do this if they are having trouble seeing the changes in value on their photographs.