



Selfies

Time required

(mins)



or two
shorter
sessions

Key Stage 2

Learning outcomes

- ✓ I can participate in class discussion, listen to and respect the views of others
- ✓ I can write using descriptive language to express my opinions and ideas

Preparation time

20 minutes

Resources needed

- Online link to Class Pictures by Dawoud Bey: <https://aperture.org/shop/dawoud-bey-class-pictures/>
- Online link to making a simple handmade envelope: <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Envelope>
- Sugar paper for creating envelopes
- Pencils, pens
- Glue sticks/Sellotape

Class Pictures

An activity introducing pupils in more depth to the power of photographs to convey identity.

What happens

1. Use the whiteboard to show Class Pictures by Dawoud Bey.
2. Ask the class to describe the portraits and what they reveal about each sitter, e.g.
 - *How old they are*
 - *What they are wearing*
 - *What their body language suggests about how they are feeling*
 - *The emotions their expressions suggest*
 - *How the messages in the portrait might be different if the individuals were in one group portrait*
3. Demonstrate how to make an envelope as per the online link.
4. Ask pupils to make their own envelopes, using the sugar paper.
5. Tell pupils they are each going to write a letter to the Tate Year 3 Project Team describing what's important to convey about their class, e.g. who's in it, what you're good at as a class, your class values, what you like about your school, your part of London, your hopes for the future.
6. Pupils insert their letters in their envelopes and write their names on the back. Post the letters to:

Tate Year 3 Project Team
A New Direction
20-26 Brunswick Place
London N1 6DZ

Reflection questions

- *Why does it matter how you look, stand and dress in a portrait?*
- *Why is a portrait of you on your own different from one of you in a group?*
- *Why is it important to express yourself?*
- *How might the artist Steve McQueen's epic group portrait of Year 3 children help visitors to understand you and your class?*

This activity works well with

- How Do We Belong? (Snapshots)
- Tapestry (Selfies)