



Self: Explorations of Identity

Activities: Grades K-2

1. We are all different from each other. Everyone has their own memories, opinions, people they love, and things they like to do for fun. All of these things and more make up who we are - they make up our identity. Everyone has an identity that is special and unique. Artists can use art to show parts of their identity, like their thoughts, memories, or feelings. As you look through the exhibition, try to think about what each artwork says about the artist. Does it show what they think or feel about something? Does it show something about their life? How does it compare to your life and your identity?

Activity:

- Think of something that makes you unique. It could be something you're good at, something you like, or someone you are close to. Using materials you have at home, create a self-portrait (a picture of yourself) showing that part of your identity. For example, if you like playing games with your friends, you could create a self-portrait showing yourself doing that activity.
- Make a still-life of things that you like. Look around your house and find things that represent you - it could be your favorite toy, things that are your favorite color, your favorite book, your favorite food, etc. Arrange them together and take a photo.

If you'd like to post your art projects on social media, make sure to tag the Museum!

Instagram: @springvillemuseum Facebook: Springville Museum of Art

2. Find Brian Kershnik's painting *The Balance*. What do you think it shows about the artist and his life? Do you think what he's doing looks easy? Think about a time when you've had to figure out how to do something really tricky in your life, and talk about that experience with an adult.

Activity:

- Write a story about a memory or special experience you've had in your life. What did you learn from it? How has it helped to make you who you are?

Utah State Core Standards:

Grade 1 Visual Arts

Standard 1.V.R.1: Select and describe works of art that illustrate daily life experiences of one's self and others, and compare images that represent the same subject.

Kindergarten Social Studies

Standard 1/ Objective 1: Describe and compare characteristics of self and others.

Grade 1 Social Studies

Standard 1/Objective 1f: Communicate positive feelings and ideas of self.

Grade 2 Fine Arts

Standard 2.V.CR.1: Brainstorm multiple approaches to an art or design problem, and make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

Grade K-2 English Language Arts

Writing Standard 8: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Additional Resources:

- Kids' Books About Identity:
 - *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon (recommended ages 4-8)
 - *The Best Kind of Bear* by Greg Gormley (recommended ages 2-5)
 - *Eraser* by Anna Kang (recommended ages 3-9)
 - *Come All You Little Persons* by John Agard (recommended ages 5-7)
 - *No!* by Marta Altez (recommended ages 4-8)
 - *Of Course They Do!* by Marie-Sabine Roger (recommended ages 2-5)
 - *Blended* by Sharon Draper (recommended ages 8-12)
 - *A Page in the Wind* by Jose Sanabria (recommended ages 4-8)
- Kids' Movies With Themes of Identity and Belonging:
 - Happy Feet (2006)
 - Moana (2016)
 - Whale Rider (2002)
 - Tarzan (1999)
 - The Tigger Movie (2000)
- Links:
 - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/using-stories-to-nurture-your-childs-identity>
 - <https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/self-and-identity-5-ways-encourage-your-childs-individuality/>
 - https://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ec_supportinghealthyidentity_english.pdf
 - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-power-prime/201210/healthy-self-identity-in-children-is-everything>