

Unit Rationale



Year 2 Style in Art/Narrative Art

This unit starts by looking at the difference between portraits and a self-portraits by considering three renowned paintings: Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, Holbein's portrait of Edward VI as a child and Kahlo's Self-Portrait with Bonito. The children go on to consider the self-portraits of Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Gentileschi using all these works to think about how a portrait can show much more than just how a person looks: an artist can choose to represent a person's personality, emotions and status. The children will paint their own self-portrait, using mirrors, learning about the proportions of the face, and how to recreate skin-tones. They will consider how they can represent themselves, by the expression they show and by what they choose to put in the background of their portrait. They will evaluate what they think of the self-portrait they have created.

Lessons 5 and 6 go onto look at how an artist can represent themselves in different ways, looking at how Picasso's self-portraits changed with age. The children then consider some of Picasso's cubist portraits, thinking carefully about what makes these portraits look strange, in particular exploring how Picasso shows a face-on view at the same time as a profile. They finish the unit by creating their own cubist portraits.