**Expressive Portraits**

**An Art Lesson for 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders (Week of April 20th)**

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“Portrait of Joseph-Etienne Roulin” by Vincent van Gogh, Oil paint on canvas, 1889

A *portrait* is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person, in which the face and its expression is predominant. The intent is to display the likeness, personality, and even the mood of the person.

Check out these portraits below:





**Create an Expressive Portrait**

Choose one family member and have them sit very still so that you can draw their portrait. Although most portraits show only the upper part of the body, you may show the entire body if you choose to do so. Think about how the background should look. Add things that give the viewer an idea about who this person is, their interests, hobbies, favorite foods and so on. For example, if you are making a portrait of your brother and he loves baseball consider adding baseball-related items in the space behind him (baseball bats, gloves, team logos, etc…).

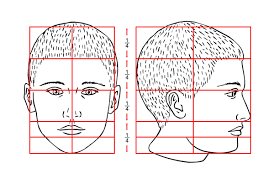
For this activity you may use any size white paper, pencil, crayon, marker or colored pencil.

**Other things to Consider:**

* Will you ask the person you are drawing to smile, frown, look serious?
* What should this person be wearing?
* Detail, detail, detail.
* How can you use color in an expressive way?
* Make the portrait proportional (see below).

**Proportion** refers to the relative size of parts of a whole. In other words, the parts seem to be the right size and in the right place as they normally would be in real life. So, be sure the nose is not too big or the eyes aren’t too high up in the forehead…

The chart below may be helpful in making the face of your portrait proportional:



**Vocabulary**

Portrait, proportional, detail, background, expression