

Faces of Canada

The Kingston Prize Education Program

Artist Nancy Douglas

Lesson 1: *What is a Portrait?*

Art terms, face ratios, portrait drawings

Students learn to read a portrait. Analyzing portraiture brings the viewer closer to the artist and the subject of the artwork. Students will gain insight into the story behind the paintings.

Equipment: Smart board or laptop projection

Reference Materials: PowerPoint/PDF Slideshow, Handouts

Supplies Needed: Rulers, pencils, drawing paper

Art Learning: *What is a Portrait?*

PowerPoint or PDF Slides, (20-30 Minutes)

Using handouts and PowerPoint provided, students review art terms, and “How to read a portrait?” The PowerPoint highlights terminology and then employs the terms, leading the class through an analysis of three Kingston Prize portraits from previous years, with class discussion. Additional portraits can be found on the Kingston Prize website and projected, or screenshared for virtual learning. Using the terminology daily is encouraged; the website has many examples of portraits and artist statements. Individual learning: research one of the Prize finalists!

Art Exploring: *Faces of Canada Game*

Canadian Faces Game Handouts/Rulers/Pencils (20-30 Minutes)

Distribute **one** of the *Faces* to each student. There are thirty *Faces* in total, one for each person playing the game. These photos are of historic/famous Canadians—students may or may not be able to recognize the person photographed. The photo faces are numbered, and listed on a separate Teacher Answer sheet, to be divulged at the end of the exploration. The identity is kept secret.

Using a ruler and pencil, ask students to draw directly onto the face in the photo copy. The ratios will not be the same from one photo to another; each face will have some differences. Follow the prompts below to lead students through the exploration. The measurements are made to find out if the face has ‘textbook’ ratios.

Steps to follow:

- What's the overall shape of this face? Circle-oval-square-rectangle-triangle? Draw that shape onto the face.
- Using a ruler, draw a vertical line down the middle of the face dividing the nose in half.
- Find the top of the skull! Mark that spot. The eyes should be about halfway between top of skull and chin. Draw a horizontal line across the eyes.
- Find the hairline (or where the hairline used to be) at the top of the forehead. From the hairline to the chin the face can be divided into three parts. 1. Draw a horizontal line at the eye brows. 2. Draw a horizontal line at the tip of the nose. Measure. Is the face divided into thirds?
- How wide is the face? Measure from side to side at the widest part.
- Now measure the width of one eye.
- How many eyes would fit across the face? Divide the eye width into the face width for the answer. (Answer: Usually 5 eye widths will fit across the width of a face.)
- Can you find the tops of the ears in your photograph? With what do the tops of the ears line up? (Answer: usually the eyebrows)
- What is the measurement between tip of nose and chin? Where does the mouth fit in? Draw a horizontal line between the lips. Is it halfway between the nose and chin? Measure. (Answer: usually one third down from nose.)
- **Bonus Question!** Who is this Canadian? Research? Ask a classmate?
- **Hints from Teacher list? Students reveal identity/story of their Canadian.**

Art Making: *What Do You Really Look Like?***Pencils/14" X 17" White Drawing Paper, 20-30 Minutes**

Using pencil, students draw a portrait of a classmate, head and shoulders only. Students are encouraged to draw one another using steps in Art Exploring section above. Two desks are put together to allow for students to sit across from each other, virtually-a prior screenshot can be made for photocopying.

- Portrait face should be at least life size or larger
- Ask students to make a line drawing-shading can be done later if desired
- Take measurements of the sitter's face, live or on photocopy of screenshot
- Ask students to see the features as shapes
- Relax! Have fun! There are no mistakes. It's a process.