Self-Portrait Silhouettes
Subject: Visual Arts
Grade Level: Grades K-5

Guided Instruction (To be done with teacher, parent, caregiver, older sibling, etc.)


Discuss the portraits by asking:

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?

What features of the portraits do they like? Discuss the shapes, colors, textures, and background details.

Art Making

A silhouette is a profile portrait of a person that focuses only on the outline, often depicted as a solid black color against a white background. For example:

![Silhouette example]

Have an adult or older sibling help create a silhouette of you by using a bright directional light source (flashlight, table lamp in a dark room, even the bright afternoon sun) to cast a shadow. Trace the shadow outline of your head, neck, and shoulders (if room) onto any piece of paper. A deconstructed paper grocery bag would work great for this project.

Using whatever art materials you have available, fill in your silhouette – be creative! You could collage pictures from magazines and catalogs! Use markers, crayons, or paint! If you have a lot of patience, even ballpoint pen can make a great art medium!
