Search for “Selfie”

* Do we see ourselves the same way that others see us?

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, many times ‘who we are’ becomes clouded because of insecurities, ridicule and/or low self-esteem. In this time of technology, people are quick to judge one’s outer beauty before understanding the true beauty of an individual. We are ‘pushed’ and ‘pulled’ to fit into molds that make us become our own worst enemies – if we don’t fit, should we try harder to do so or should we break the mold? Is it easier said than done? What is ‘true beauty’?

* What is a selfie?

You will be provided with 10 minutes to take five ‘selfies’. When you come back to class, view your ‘selfies’ and answer the following:

* What do you think about before you take a ‘selfie’?
* Do you notice a pattern? (i.e., positioning, smile, look)
* What do you like the most about your ‘selfies’? What do you dislike about your ‘selfies’?

Take another ‘selfie’ about a physical aspect of yourself that you like the least. It is time to be honest and taking a risk.

Answer the following:

* What is the physical aspect about yourself that you like the least?
* How does it make you feel taking a picture about the aspect you like least? Why?

**Task:** Watch the videos I posted on the blog. What if we chose to post our Selfies in the class and write nice things about one another? Why would or wouldn’t we do it? Would one person ruin it? Is it worth it? Is it ok just to focus on the outside and not comment on what’s on the inside?

**Compose & Create Response**

With your ‘selfie’ create a poem. The **hardest thing about writing a self-portrait** aka ‘selfie’ poem is (1) **being completely truthful**, and (2) **trying to find that part of yourself that is different from other people**. But it is also fun because you can make up your own variations on the suggestions given below.

* tell your likes and dislikes.
* tell what you want to be or do when you get out of school, and why.
* tell something that somebody has said about you, and how it made you feel; this can be either a compliment or an insult.
* tell something that made you feel very excited or very sad, and why.
* tell something you never told anybody before. (Maybe it involves an incident from a younger age.)
* tell what makes you special or different from somebody - and it’s not fair to say, “I’m different because I’m me.”)

Put each phrase or thought on a separate line so that the end result reads, and looks, like a poem rather than a story. Use as many **similes** (comparisons) and **metaphors** (words or phrases that suggest a similarity) as possible. When you finish, illustrate your poem with your ‘selfie’ photo.

* Your poem is to be at least … lines in length. Be sure that the final result displays your best effort and is colourful, neat, and either typed or written in blue or black ink.
* Include a paragraph response that acts as a writer’s glimpse – this piece should explain the thought behind the poem and ‘selfie’, just in case it is unclear. In this writer’s glimpse you can explain the *tone you were trying to achieve* and *how you went about that*, the *poetic devices you included* and the *meaning you hoped the poem and/or ‘selfie’ would achieve,* as well as *how you want readers to feel/think about you after reading your poem*. This entry should be ½ page - 1 page, typed and double-spaced. It is formal, but still academic in language and reflection.

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| **Criteria** |  |
| **Personal Aspect & Voice**  Your poem discusses aspects of your personality and your inner self, you have included information from some of the suggestions; the poem is a true reflection of you; your personal voice has been reflected. | \_\_\_\_  3 |
| **Figurative Language/Poetic Devices**  Like any good poet, you have attempted to be creative with language, including some **poetic devices** (simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, hyperbole, oxymoron, onomatopoeia) that are thoughtful, original, and make sense – each adds meaning to the piece | \_\_\_\_  3 |
| **Imagery & Emotion**  You have attempted to include words and phrases that appeal to the senses, creating images and connections for your reader; it is rich in sights, sounds, smells, emotion, etc. | \_\_\_\_  3 |
| **Writer’s Glimpse Composition**  You have included a ½ page - 1 page, typed and double-spaced entry that explains your intended tone, describes the poetic devices you have used and the meaning you hoped to achieve with each, as well as how you want people to think/feel about you after reading the poem. | \_\_\_\_  11 |

**Comment(s)**

Self-Portrait aka “Selfie” Poem Poetry

A self-portrait poem is exactly what the name implies. Instead of picturing how you look on the outside, however, it gives the reader an indication of what you are like on the inside. Here are examples of student-written self-portrait poems:

SOMETIMES

Sometimes life can be good, sometimes bad.

When I was in kindergarten, kids used to call me

the smartest in the class.

I hate clean, pretty, nice things. I like dirty sneakers

and shirts with holes in them. I like popcorn, with butter

on it.

I hate slow music.

When something doesn’t go my way or I get into a fight

with my mother or father, I get so angry,

I blast!

I could scare an elephant and six tigers!

When I’m sad,

I cry my heart out. But when I’m happy, I feel seven feet tall. I’m special because I’m alive!

The first example is a very literal self-portrait poem. The other is one that is more imaginative because it makes use of metaphor and simile.

LIFE BEHIND A FACE

Behind this face there are wrinkles that hurt:

the wrinkles of memory, of being crushed up like paper,

being chewed like bubble gum, I try to act out pride,

to fight off the memory

of how it hurts. When someone calls me names, I feel soft

and spongy inside, not like the out