

# I AM LOVED

Age Range: Elementary School (Grades K-2)

Concept: Mixed-Media Self Portraits

This art activity is based on *I AM LOVED*. Written by Nikki Giovanni & illustrated by Ashley Bryan, this picture book is featured in the 2022 Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival.



## Prompt:

Create a vibrant self portrait that expresses your uniqueness.

## Materials:

Paper  
Colored Pencils  
Crayons  
Picture book *I AM LOVED* by Nikki Giovanni

## Steps:

1. Using a piece of paper write down five things you notice about your appearance. Think about answering the question: What do I notice when I look in this mirror?
2. Celebrate these features by creating a self-portrait. Using the mirror in the book, look closely at the shape of your head. Tracing first with your eyes and drawing it large on your paper, is it more round than angular? Or longer than wide?
3. Notice where your neck comes out from the bottom of your head, is it narrow or wide? You can draw shoulders if you have space too.
4. Refer to your list and begin adding these features to your portrait. Drawing only the outlines, which we will fill in with color and texture afterward.
5. Using color, overlapping and designs and patterns, begin to fill in these newly created features. For larger shapes, such as hair or head, divide into smaller more manageable shapes for example, circles for curls in your hair or cheeks.
6. If there is space around your portrait, fill these in with lines and shapes that move across the page and draw attention to you. This might look like creating a series of lines streaming outward from your head, or waves, trees and sun if you enjoy the outdoors.
7. Repeat step 5 to complete your colorful portrait and hang where you can see and enjoy, maybe on a mirror.