

PEEK-A-YOU PORTRAIT

AN IDENTITY ACTIVITY FOR AGES 9-12



Have you ever been described or labeled in a way that didn't feel true to you? Has anyone ever been surprised that you are not what they expected?

The way people see us may be different than who we are on the inside, so let's make a Peek-A-You Portrait and open doors that reveal the gifts inside of you!

Materials:

- Printed-out photo or drawing of your face
- 2 sheets of cardstock
- Paper and pencil to jot down ideas
- Marker or pen (in colors that are legible when used on your photo)
- Clear tape
- Scissors

STEP 1

On a blank piece of paper, write down all the words or phrases a stranger might use to describe you. Some may be true to you while some aren't. Pick the nine that stand out or surprise you.

Here are some examples of words people have used to describe me before getting to know me:

- Quiet
- Responsible
- Tall
- Not fat / not skinny
- Harmless
- Feminine but not super girly

STEP 2

Respond to each word with a new word or phrase that better represents who you know you are.

Here are some response words/phrases I would add to the above:

- Quiet ▸ Opinionated
- Responsible ▸ Messy
- Tall ▸ Tall for an Asian



- Not fat / Not skinny ▸ Sometimes self-conscious about my weight
- Harmless ▸ Don't mess with Auntie!
- Feminine ▸ Sometimes butch

STEP 3

Print out a large picture of your face and stick it onto some cardstock to make it a little stiffer.

STEP 4

Draw a 3x3 grid, like tic-tac-toe lines, across the picture of you. Now cut along the lines so it becomes nine squares.

STEP 5

On the face side of each square, write one of the original nine words that others use to describe you.

STEP 6

Assemble the squares onto another sheet of cardstock so it shows your face again. Tape one edge of each of these squares onto the new cardstock so that each square opens up like a door.

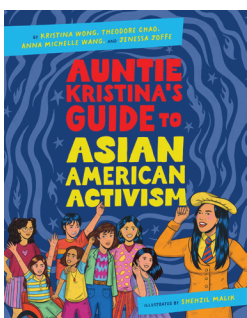
STEP 7

Open each square and write the words of who you really are on the blank cardstock beneath it.

STEP 8

Open and close the doors. Admire this revealing portrait of yourself. Share this Peek-A-You Portrait with someone you want to know you better!

What do you see when you look at your Peek-A-You Portrait? What do you think others learn when they open the doors?



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