

Symbolic self – abstract self-portraits

You are going to create a 'picture' of yourself, but it won't look like you! This picture will be a representation of your life; it will symbolize you and your life so far.

First, what is a symbol?

	A heart might symbolize love on a birthday card.
:D	You might type this in your text message to represent a smiley face.
1, 2, 3, 4	These numbers symbolize a quantity or the position of something.
	Have you ever seen this street sign? It is a symbol that tells people: "No entry!"

With a friend, think of some more symbols and draw them here. Explain what they symbolize.

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Before you create your symbolic self picture, think about some important events in your life so far and write notes in the box.



You may want to think about only happy things or also times when you were sad or angry. This is **YOUR** symbolic self, so you decide what you want to include.

Here are some ideas to help you ...

- Something you did really well
- Something you did with another person
- A memorable place you went to, a holiday or day trip
- A time when you laughed so much your stomach hurt
- A competition you won, lost or tried really hard at
- A new skill you learnt
- An important person in your life that helped you, or that you helped
- Something I really love, like, hate, feel passionate about
- Things you would like to do in the future

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You are almost ready to create your picture.

Your picture will be a collage. You can use pictures cut out from magazines, natural objects, drawings, photos, objects, food ... to represent all the events, people, places and things that make up who you are.

But first, think about how you are going to glue them onto the paper. What shape will you give your 'symbolic self' picture?

How do you see your life? Here are some ideas ...



A circle, going
round and round.
No start, no
finish



A tall building
with lots of
rooms



A river of life,
flowing to the
sea



A fire burning
bright

Talk about it with a friend and write some more ideas here.

Now you are ready to create your abstract self portrait.