



ACTIVITY: 'MY CARNEVALE'

TIME: 30+ minutes
SIZE: Individuals
SPACE: For individuals to work
RESOURCES: Mask Templates 1 & 2 (pp.67–68), magazines, glue, pens, paint

The aim is to encourage students to think about the way they define themselves in their minds.

The result should be an appreciation that everyone has some control over the way they think about themselves, and thus has some control over their own Sense of Self-worth.

1. Conduct a brief discussion about masks and the roles they play and have played in many cultures (Japanese, Polynesian, ancient Greek, etc.). The Venetian celebration *Carnevale* goes back nearly 800 years, and the Venetian *mascherari*, or mask-makers, are highly admired.
2. Students are going to decorate their own masks, both inside and outside, to represent themselves. They should think carefully about how they want to portray themselves to themselves (inside) and to others (outside), and whether, indeed, there should be a difference between the two.
3. Students can use magazine pictures, words, drawings or handwriting to decorate their masks. They may want to paint them or adorn them with quotations or poems.
4. It might be beneficial to allow a loose class discussion to evolve while students are decorating their masks.
5. Allow as much time as you see fit. Allow students comfortable doing so to share their creations with the rest of the class.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What were your thoughts when you were told about the exercise? How did those thoughts make you feel about presenting aspects of yourself visually? Why do you think you felt that way?
- Did you think about yourself as you are now, or yourself as you'd like to be? What is the difference?
- What were the differences between the inside and the outside of your mask? How does this correlate with the face you 'wear' every day?
- What factors determine the facets of ourselves we feel comfortable exhibiting to the outside world? Is it healthy or unhealthy to put stock in those?