**Faces, Faces, Faces**

**Essential Question** How does the artist convey emotions through portraits?

**Grade** Kindergarten

**Time** 30–60 minutes

**Art Concepts** Portrait, expression

**Materials** Paper, something for tracing a large circle to make a person’s face (small dish, large can), pencil, crayons or colored pencils, mirror (use with an adult)

**Artwork in Focus** [Laughing Child, 1620-25 by Frans Hals](https://collections.lacma.org/node/173927)

**Talking about Art** Frans Hals was a Dutch painter. He was born in Antwerp, the Netherlands, in 1582. He painted **portraits** of a wide variety of people, including ordinary people, rich people, musicians, mayors, clerks, military officers, and more. He also painted individual portraits of brides and grooms, as well as landscapes.

Look at Hals’s *Laughing Child* for 30 seconds. What do you see? What is the boy doing? Is he smiling? Is he laughing? Look at his eyes and cheeks and mouth. How does it make you feel when you look at him? Imagine a reason why he is laughing. What makes you laugh?

Emotions are different ways you may feel. What are some emotions you have felt? Everybody feels different emotions at different times. How does your face show your emotions?

There are other portraits in LACMA’s collection that also show emotions. Compare Hals’s portrait of a laughing child with [*A Memorial Portrait of Onoe Kikugoro IV*](https://collections.lacma.org/node/213437)*,* [*Early Portrait of Nasir al-Din Shah*](https://collections.lacma.org/node/173705)*, and* [*Portrait of a Woman*](https://collections.lacma.org/node/251511)at collections.lacma.org.

**Making Art** A portrait is a picture of a person. Let’s create a portrait inspired by Hals’s *Laughing Child*. Let’s start by drawing a face. People have different-shaped faces.

1. Start with a circle shape. Ask an adult to help you find something that is a circle, maybe a cup or mug, a bowl, or plate. The bigger the circle, the better! Place the circular object you found on top of your paper, and use it with a pencil to trace your circle.
2. Next, let’s draw an **expression** on the face. An expression is the look on a face. What kind of expression do you want to draw? If you want to draw a happy face, how will the eyes look? How will the mouth look? If you want to draw a sad face, how would the eyes and mouth look different from those on a happy face?
3. Look at your face in the mirror. Where are your eyes? Are they at the top of your head? Maybe they are about in the middle of your face. Look at the shape of your eyes. Draw two eyes. Draw the eyebrows. Draw a nose. Draw the mouth. Draw hair. Draw ears, unless the hair covers them. This does not have to be your face; it is just a face with eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Reflection** How can you tell when a friend is happy or sad? How do you feel when a friend is happy? Are you happy too? How do you feel if someone is sad? Is there anything you can say or do to show them you care?

**Curriculum Connections** California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. PK.VA:Cr2.1: Use a variety of art-making tools. K.VA:Re8 Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.

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