



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

*to strengthen teaching in public schools®*

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2017 Volume II: Literature, Life-Writing, and Identity

---

## **Curating an identity: Exploration and Expression in the Elementary Art Room**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 17.02.03, published September 2017  
by Robert Graham

Considering the idea of identity, through the creative and expressive view of art, this unit focuses on the manifestations of identities in students and how they are expressed. This unit discusses the practice of collecting as a personal act of projecting one's identity onto objects. The idea of a narrative identity, or a personal story, is discussed and synthesized with the role of a curator. The curator's job of assembling and organized artwork for use in a museum is use here to explain to students one way of expressing their identity through art. Addressing art's expressive features, the unit highlights artworks, techniques, and characters that can be used to help students visualize identity and learn about ways to express it. The unit is grounded in the elementary classroom but speaks to students of all ages.

(Developed for Visual Art, grades K-5; recommended for Visual Art, grades K-12)

---

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit [https://teachers.yale.edu/terms\\_of\\_use](https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use)