



Portrait of Martin Luther King by Ashley (3rd grade)

- Paul Revere by John Singleton Copley
- Harriet Tubman by Jacob Lawrence

Think about people from your community who engage in heroic acts everyday (e.g., people who risk their lives to put out fires or rescue others, someone who engages in unselfish acts, someone who shows courage in his or her daily life).

The Activity: Create a portrait of someone you consider a personal hero or heroine. Before you begin, think about how you want to portray this person (e.g., in a bust-length or full-length pose or as engaged in a heroic act?) and what you will include in the background to complement his or her portrait.

Working on a sheet of white paper, draw a picture of your personal hero or heroine (in contour form) with a pencil, black crayon or cray-pa.

Once your drawing is completed, fill in the shapes and forms on the page using bold, rich colors. Try to blend the colors to make the forms look three-dimensional.

When your picture is finished, sign, date, and title it in the bottom right-hand corner. On an index card, write a short explanation of who is shown in your picture and why you chose this person

Display your picture with its explanation in your classroom or home so that others can admire your work.

Want To Do More?

Check out the The Giraffe Heroes Project that celebrates people who "stick their necks out" for others. Also, read Faith Ringgold's illustrated book *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* (1992) that tells the story of Harriet Tubman who helped 100s of men, women, and children escape slavery in 19th century America.

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A Portrait of Your Hero

Since of the time of Ancient Greece, artists have been inspired to create portraits of heroes and heroines. Statues and monuments in city parks and plazas remind us of those who have shaped our history as do painted portraits of heroes and heroines that hang in many museums and public buildings. In this project, you will consider the meaning of "hero," view a few portraits of heroes and heroines, and then create a portrait of your own personal hero or heroine.

Materials You Need: 12x18 inch white paper; pencil, crayons, cray-pas or markers. A photograph of someone you admire may be helpful.

Getting Started: Before you begin drawing, think about the word 'hero' and what it means to you. What makes someone a hero or heroine? What qualities does a hero possess? Make a list of words and phrases about heroes on a sheet of paper (e.g., brave, unselfish, helpful, courageous, daring, risk-taker, admirable, etc.). Think of people who have become famous in history because of their heroic acts.

Look at the following portraits of two famous American Presidents who are considered heroes. Notice how each artist portrays his subject.

- Abraham Lincoln (the 16th American President) by George P. A. Healy.
- Washington Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (1851)

Here are two more famous Americans known for their heroic acts: