



My Best Self

SELF-CONFIDENCE and STUDENT VOICE



RESPOND to the book *Darryl's Dream*, which tells the story of how young Darryl, now known as DMC, built his self-confidence and learned to feel comfortable being different from other kids. He identified people who were his supporters or challengers based on whether or not they treated him kindly and encouraged his ideas. Ask yourself, does that person laugh with me or at me? Do they encourage me to stretch my skills and take risks? Or do they poke fun when I do something out of the ordinary? Think about your personal strengths and which people around you are supporters.



My Strengths and Supporters

List some of your special qualities and people who help you be your **best self**:

DRAW YOUR
BEST SELF
CARTOON.



CREATE a cartoon version of your *best self*. Look in a mirror and consider which visual features you might accentuate or focus on as you draw a cartoon version of your *best self*. Consider ways to incorporate your list of special qualities into the sketch. If you draw a full body portrait, where would you be standing or sitting? What would you be doing? Would you want a microphone close at hand or would you be near an easel? Which of your supporters would you include in this cartoon sketch?



Darryl's Dream
Text copyright 2022 © by Darryl "DMC" McDaniels
Illustrator copyright 2022 © by Tristan Tait
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Education

Turning Today's Interests
into Tomorrow's Careers
Thinking Sheet

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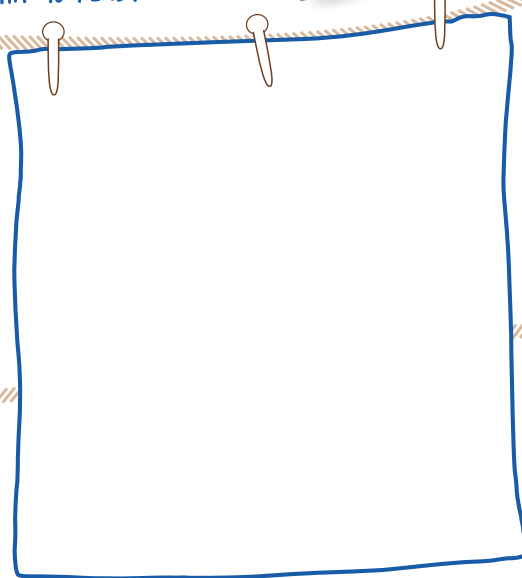
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PRESENT your *best self* cartoon in a group of sketches that have no names on them. See if classmates can match the portraits with the artists who created them. Then take turns introducing yourself and identifying your special characteristics. Describe who supports you and explain the ways they encourage you and boost your confidence.

REFLECT ON THE DRAFT ART FROM THE FIRST PAGE. NOW REVISE INTO A FINAL CARTOON PORTRAIT THAT IS READY FOR DISPLAY.



CONNECT the ways Darryl used his voice with what you could do to boost your confidence and help others. He used his voice to be kind, speak out against bullying, and perform powerful poems and raps. Talk with classmates about ways you can individually and collectively use student voice to improve conditions in your school and the broader community. Using student voice to speak up for what's right is part of everyone being their *best self*!

Note for teachers and parents:

For more creative inspiration and hands-on explorations go to Crayola.com/CreativityWeek
To share student artwork on social media please post using [#CrayolaCreativityWeek](https://twitter.com/CrayolaCreativityWeek)
We can't wait to see what they create.



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