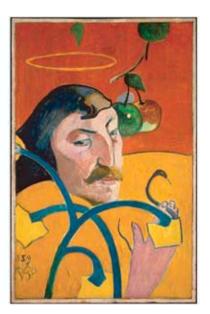
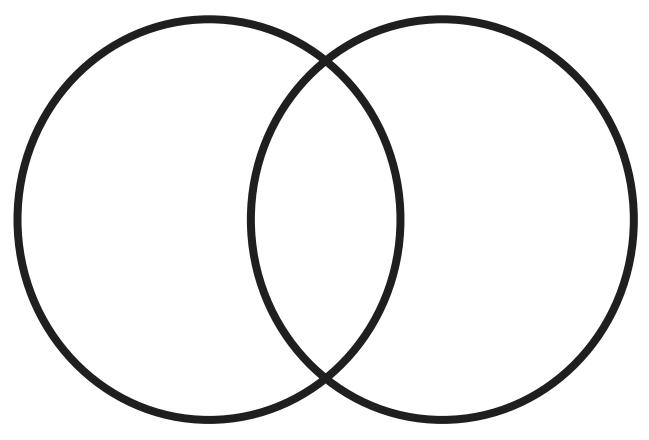
Double Identity: Two Gauguin Self-Portraits



Paul Gauguin Self-Portrait Dedicated to Carriere 1888 or 1889



Paul Gauguin *Self-Portrait* 1889



Carefully study these two self-portraits by Paul Gauguin. List your observations of what is unique to one self-portrait in circle A, and to the other one in circle B.

Then write the things they have in common in the center section.

Is it possible to create a self-portrait without even including your face or body? In what other ways can you represent who you are?

- Think about the characteristics and qualities that make you "you." How can you visually show them? Decide which ones you will include in a "symbolic" self-portrait.
- Cut out pictures from magazines that represent or symbolize your essential characteristics and qualities. Look for images that express your personality, talents, tastes, and moods. For example, if you like photography, you might cut out a camera. To show musical talent, you might use instruments, lyrics, or musical notes. If you like to help others, you might include pictures of other people or a hand. Use your imagination: look for colors, patterns, places, foods, clothes, and other objects to show "you," without really showing "you"!
- Think about some less obvious ways to symbolize some of your traits. For example, if you are wise, find a picture of an owl.
- Additionally, you can use pencils, markers, or paints to create more symbols.
- Arrange your collected symbols on background paper or poster board. If you like, you can paint your background first.

Now consider: Does your self-portrait represent your many different qualities—in a symbolic way? Make a list of the symbols and what they say about you.