

# CREATIVE CHALLENGE: THE PROPHECY BY DAVID MEDALLA

## Description:

Create a self-portrait which symbolizes a prophecy about life in Sunderland after COVID 19.

Suitable for ages 10 +

\* Note for parents and carers - see end of worksheet

## Materials:

A4 / A3 paper, cardboard, newspaper or whatever you have available.

Pastels, paint, pens, markers, crayons, coloured pencils.



David Medalla, *A Prophecy*, 1989. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © David Medalla

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The Prophecy by David Medalla is a big painting (210cm by 310cm!) which was created using oil paints.

It shows a prophecy and many objects and symbols that have significant meaning to the artist and his positive vision of the future.

The words Je vois le temps a venir mean 'I see the time to come' and the scene is set under the Grande Arche, a monument to people and humanity that opened in Paris on 14 July 1989.

The phoenix in the bottom right section of the painting represents rebirth and the symbols held by the dangling figure are the letters alpha and omega in the Greek alphabet. They represent the beginning and the end.

What do you think the train tracks represent? The whole scene is a celebration of a positive future and the coming together of people, languages and symbols from different cultures.

The Challenge? Use this painting to inspire your own self portrait which symbolizes a prophecy about what you hope Sunderland is like after the COVID-19 virus. What objects and symbols would you include? How will you represent your thoughts and feelings in your artwork?

## Step 1

Take a piece of scrap paper and write down 3 words or phrases that represent you.

It could be about your talents – sporty, bookworm, gymnast, artist – or it could be a description of your personality – kind, friendly, loud, quiet or it could be about something else entirely – sister, animal lover, dreamer...

## Step 2

Now write down objects or symbols that could represent these words.

For example;

**Animal lover** - RSPCA logo, photo of your cat...

**Bookworm** - a book, a bookmark, kindle logo, harry potter, Roald Dahl images....

**Food lover** - pizza, biscuits, fruit, cup of tea, a menu, cutlery.....

## Step 3

Repeat the above process but this time choose 3 words about the future. What do you want the future to be? What do you want people to be in the future?

How will we celebrate when this is over?

Now draw up a list of objects that could represent these words.

## Step 4

Draw a picture of yourself in the centre of your artwork. This can be as simple or as detailed as you want: It could be a simple silhouette.

## Step 5

Draw a large yellow sun shape around you and include a written prophecy of what you hope for the future. In the artwork this is written in French. You could use google translate to find out how to write yours in French if you have access to the internet.

## Step 6

Draw your 3 objects that represent your personality and your 3 objects that represent your hopes for the future.

## Step 7

Now add as much colour or detail as you want and don't forget to post up your results online.

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## Note for parents and carers:

Thinking about the coronavirus and the future could be difficult for some children. They may be worried or anxious about the things they are seeing and hearing and the situation may be affecting your family personally. It can be helpful for them to talk about their feelings with you.

For help and support with talking about coronavirus with children you can find advice on these links:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/talking-to-children>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>