**CULMINATING TASK: Responsive Writing**

**Purpose:**

* To nurture individual responses to artists’ work; and
* To encourage creative writing.

**Steps:**

1. Ask students to choose the iconic photograph that means the most to them. Then write a poem from the point of view of a person in the photo.
2. The poem will be a self-portrait

When imagining that you are a person in one of these photos, do not concentrate on physical features. Instead, compare yourself to any one of a number of things: the weather, a season, a colour, a number, an object.

Here’s an example of a self-portrait by a student writing about herself:

*Myself*

I am a play,

With all the laughter and tears

Hidden backstage:

I am all the characters –

The heroine that I want to be,

the villain that I sometimes stoop to,

and the scenery,

the sun and the stars,

and the dingy slum buildings:

I am the brilliant scenes

and the clumsy, ashamed mistakes:

I am a play.

**Source:** L.F. Dunton High School, Montreal, published in Powell, Brian. (1976) *Their Own Special Shape.* Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, Ltd.