

REGINALD BAYLOR: POP CULTURE IDENTITY COLLAGE

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What pop culture symbols do you recognize in this painting?
- Why do you think the artist included these images?
- How can pop culture symbols represent identity, culture, or stereotypes?
- What kinds of symbols or images matter to you personally?

ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Introduce students to *The Directions To and From*. Ask them to identify recognizable pop culture symbols and discuss what those images might represent beyond their surface meaning. Guide students toward understanding that symbols act as visual information for larger ideas and that Baylor intentionally layers familiar imagery to reflect how media and culture surround and influence us.
2. Ask students to brainstorm 5–8 pop culture symbols that are part of their daily lives. Encourage them to think about brands, family, music, sports, traditions, fashion, or characters they connect with. For each symbol, students should write a short note explaining what it personally represents to them.
3. After brainstorming, students may sketch a quick plan for their collage. They should consider how to arrange their symbols to tell a story about themselves. Encourage them to think about size, placement, and overlap. Students may choose to include an image of themselves within the collage.
4. Students will create their collage using cut images and drawn elements. As they work, remind them to think about color, scale, and composition. Symbols that feel more important can be larger or placed centrally, while others might fade into the background. The goal is for the collage to visually communicate how pop culture shapes or reflects their identity.
5. To conclude, students will write a brief artist statement explaining why they chose specific symbols, what those symbols represent, and how their arrangement communicates their identity.

REFLECT AND CONNECT

- Which symbol in your piece is most personal to you and why?
- What does your collage reveal about how pop culture influences your identity?
- Through this process, what did you realize about your identity and the role images have in shaping it?
- How would this collage have looked different if you created it five years ago? How do you think it might change five years from now?

