

# Hudson RiverKids Story Hour

## Nature Self-Portrait

**Activity Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Themes:** Hudson River Park; Natural Resources; Self Expression

### Activity Summary:

This week's story is *I Am Perfectly Designed* written by Karamo Brown and Jason "Rachel" Brown; illustrated by Anoosha Syed. In this empowering ode to modern families, a boy and his father take a joyful walk through the city, discovering all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other.

We invite you to take a walk though Hudson River Park with a loved one, and celebrate each other's company. Along your stroll, observe your surroundings and gather natural materials with which you can then create a self-portrait, or portraits of each other!

### Recommended Materials:

- Materials gathered from nature (sticks, grass, flowers/petals, leaves, acorns, rocks, soil, etc.)
- Construction paper, scrap paper, a paper plate, or cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape or glue

### Instructions:

1. Take a walk through Hudson River Park, or where ever you're able to get out into nature.
2. Forage for materials outside that can be used to create a portrait of yourself or a loved one. What will you use to represent each feature (eyes, mouth, hair, etc.)?  
**Please Note:** While gathering your materials in Hudson River Park, please be respectful of your surrounding green space. Choose fallen leaves instead of picking leaves off trees, check that no pollinators are visiting the flower you may have your eye on, and take only as much as you will really use.
3. Create a base for your portrait by cutting or tearing a circle or oval out of construction paper, scrap paper or cardboard. You can also use a paper plate as your canvas.
4. Using tape or glue, assemble and attach your materials onto your paper or cardboard to look like you or your loved one. Remember to let glue dry before moving your portrait around too much!



Thanks to Jackie Currie and [happyhooligans.ca](http://happyhooligans.ca) for the inspiration for this craft, and the photos used in this instruction guide.