

The triple self-portrait by Norman Rockwell



1- Read his biography and complete the information about the painting.

A biography of Norman Rockwell.

Born in New York City in 1894, Norman Rockwell always wanted to be an artist. At age 14, Rockwell enrolled in art classes at The New York School of Art. Two years later, in 1910, he left high school to study art at The National Academy of Design. Rockwell found success early. He painted his first commission of four Christmas cards before his sixteenth birthday. While still in his teens, he was hired as art director of Boys' Life, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1916, the 22-year-old Rockwell painted his first cover for The Saturday Evening Post magazine. Over the next 47 years, another 321 Rockwell covers would appear on the cover of the Post. Also in 1916, Rockwell married Irene O'Connor; they divorced in 1930. The 1930s and 1940s are generally considered to be the most fruitful decades of Rockwell's career. In 1930 he married Mary Barstow, a schoolteacher, and the couple had three sons, Jarvis, Thomas, and Peter. The family moved to Arlington, Vermont, in 1939. In 1943, inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's address to Congress, Rockwell painted the Four Freedoms paintings. They were reproduced in four consecutive issues of The Saturday Evening Post with essays by contemporary writers. Rockwell's interpretations of Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear proved to be enormously popular. Although the Four Freedoms series was a great success, 1943 also brought Rockwell an enormous loss. A fire destroyed his Arlington studio as well as numerous paintings and his collection of historical costumes and props. In 1953, the Rockwell family moved from Arlington, Vermont, to Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Six years later, Mary Barstow Rockwell died unexpectedly. In collaboration with his son Thomas, Rockwell published his autobiography, My Adventures as an Illustrator, in 1960. The Saturday Evening Post carried excerpts from the best-selling book in eight consecutive issues, with Rockwell's Triple Self-Portrait on the cover of the first.

In 1961, Rockwell married Molly Punderson, a retired teacher. Two years later, he ended his 47-year association with The Saturday Evening Post and began to work for Look magazine.

In 1973, Rockwell established a trust to preserve his artistic legacy by placing his works in the custodianship of the Old Corner House Stockbridge Historical Society, later to become Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge.

1- Highlight all the elements related to "Triple Self-Portrait".

2- You know more details about this famous painting which was in fact a magazine cover.

Complete the identity card of the painting.

Title:

Artist:

Date:

Age of the artist at the time:

Name of the magazine:

Title of the artist's autobiography:

Reference to an accident:

1. Look at the picture, describe it at oral (use the vocabulary on Sauze English)

Look at all the props (*accessoires*), or objects surrounding Norman Rockwell in his workshop. Write a caption in the appropriate box using the following words or expressions.

a helmet, 4 self-portraits, a pipe, a glass of coke, an art book, a mirror and a metal bucket with smoke coming out of it.



2. Compare the three portraits:

- The large one in the center
- The portrait in the mirror
- The portrait of the artist from behind.

Which one do you think is the real one? Why?

3. The 4 portraits in the top right-hand corner:



- a) **Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)** is generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt. Van Gogh produced all of his work (some 900 paintings and 1100 drawings) during a period of only 10 years before he succumbed to mental illness and committed suicide. **Self-Portrait, 1889, Orsay Museum, Paris.**
- b) **Rembrandt (1606-1669)** is one of the Netherlands most famous 17th-century painters. **Self-Portrait, 1652, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.**
- c) **Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)** was a German painter, wood carver and engraver. **Self-Portrait, 1498, Prado Museum, Madrid.**
- d) ? Give the name of the artist who painted this masterpiece.

Number	Name of the artist
1	
2	
3	
4	

4. What do we learn about Rockwell's painting technique when looking at the picture?

- (book)
- (4 small self-portraits in the right hand side corner)
- (mirror)
- (sketches on the left hand side corner)
- (central drawing)

5. What do we learn about his daily habits, his life, his personality?

- (Glass)
- (Pipe)
- (Eagle)
- (helmet/smoke/matches)
- (His posture)

6. Final task: use the methodology sheet to write an complete analysis of the painting for "Histoire des arts" (in English!)