Lesson 8
CONTENT: The Whole Picture

Lesson Plan: (1 hr, 15 min)
• Warm-up: Review students’ photographs from the week before. (5)

• Read the texts that accompany Dawoud Bey’s photographs. For each one, ask the students to describe the image that comes to mind, then look at the portrait and discuss differences. “What did you think the person would look like? What do they look like? How do the image and writing communicate different meanings? Which clues to appearance did we hear? What kinds of assumptions do we make based on biography?” (30)

• Photo exercise: Revisit Bey’s photographs. “What do you notice? Are the subjects posing? What kind of composition do you see?” Consider the classroom (or other) environment for composition. Is it possible to make an interesting photograph in the classroom you see every day? Have the students choose a background and pose carefully, then use a partner and a tripod (or place the camera on a stable surface) to make collaborative photographs in the style of Class Pictures. Have them use the workbook prompts or interview their partners to write a short description to accompany the image. Have them fill out the accompanying worksheet to write a short description of themselves.

Staff Follow-Up: Download images from Class Pictures exercise and make a slide show.

Going Further: Show Dawoud Bey video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFX0ti0fTU

Materials Needed: Dawoud Bey images, pencils, cameras, workbooks, lights and tripod if available.

Masterwork: Dawoud Bey, Class Pictures (Aperture, 2007)

Students will:
• Know: Photographs and text communicate differently but can work hand in hand.
• Understand: Photographs and text can work together to describe someone both internally and externally.
• Do: Be able to write brief personal descriptions to accompany their pictures.