

Paul Cezanne, *Boy in a Red Vest*, 1888



****First Question First****

What is *your* immediate reaction to this artwork?

Trust it. Write about it. Use the guide sheet for help.

Continue reading for another perspective and journal questions.

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Excerpt from my journal:

This image jumped out at me, catching me in layers of meaning. What especially feels important is the actual fact of the red vest. And Cezanne the artist. It has been whispering to me, "you are skirting around the fact that Daddy-in-body is dead." He was, in body, a monumental figure in my life's structure . . . foundational. Maybe my earliest childhood memory is going to him with arms raised and him lifting me into the air and holding me, safe in his arms, above the ground chaos of people. As an older man these knit vests and cardigans were his daily attire, warming him, softening him. I will never hold his hand again. His winking a couple different times the few weeks before he died, joining us forever in a cosmic in-joke. The Man in the Red Vest was my straight-backed, dignified, funny, kind, curious, spirited, protective, loyal Dad. And he is gone in his body now. I mourn the physical man who wore his knitted red vest. He has merged with the elements just as Cezanne's boy passes into his surroundings.

Q.) What piece of clothing or jewelry, pair of glasses or shoes embodies your loved one? How does this item evoke him or her? Write about how you feel when holding it.