



## Year 4: Jean-Michel Basquiat

### Key Facts:

**Born:** 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1960

**Died:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 1988

**Lived in:** Brooklyn

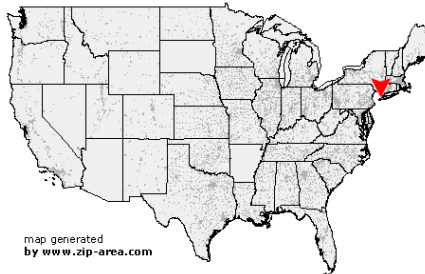
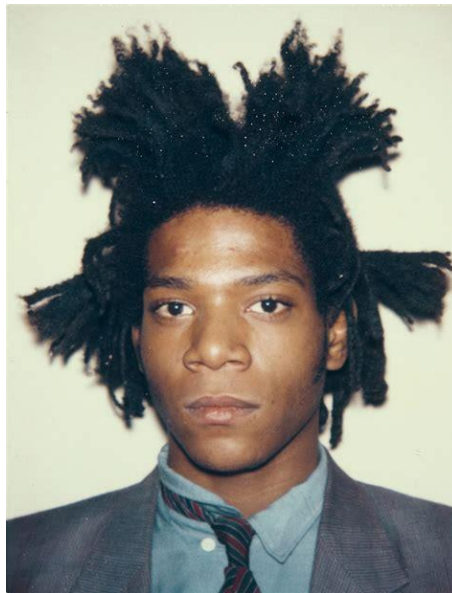
**Family:** Mum Matilde, born in Brooklyn to Puerto Rican parents. Dad Gerard, born in Haiti. Little sisters Lisane and Jeanine.

**Mum** used to draw with him when he was a young boy.

He received a book about the human body while in hospital. This influenced his art.

He was fluent in English, French and Spanish.

He was also in a band, in which he played clarinet and the synthesiser.



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### Techniques and Materials:

Basquiat started off as a graffiti artist. He and his friend, Al Diaz, used to spray paint poems and messages on the outside of subway trains and on walls in the street.

He used poetry, words, historical information, drawings and paintings in his art. Some of his drawings were abstract (not accurate).

He used ink, pencil, felt-tips or oil sticks.



### Themes:

Basquiat used his art to discuss opposites like being rich or poor, and your inner thoughts versus your outer behaviour.

He wanted people to look at his art and think about racism and how poor people are treated.

