Ruby - Feature #21389

Simplify Set#inspect output

06/01/2025 03:35 AM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

Status:	Open
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Target version:	

Description

As Set is now a core collection class, it should have special inspect output. Ideally, inspect output should be suitable to eval, similar to array and hash (assuming the elements are also suitable to eval):

```
set = Set[1, 2, 3]
eval(set.inspect) == set # should be true
```

The simplest way to do this is to use the Set[] syntax:

```
Set[1, 2, 3].inspect
# => "Set[1, 2, 3]"
```

I've submitted a pull request that implements this: https://github.com/ruby/ruby/pull/13488

The pull request deliberately does not use any subclass name in the output, similar to array and hash. I think it is more important that users know they are dealing with a set than which subclass:

```
Class.new(Set)[]
# PR does: Set[]
#     not: #<Class:0x00000c21c78699e0>[]
```

However, it's easy to change the PR to use a subclass name if that is desired.

Related issues:

Related to Ruby - Bug #21377: core Set#inspect does not use inherited class name	**Open**

History

#1 - 06/01/2025 07:49 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

- Related to Bug #21377: core Set#inspect does not use inherited class name added

#2 - 06/01/2025 07:55 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

Per https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/21377#note-5 (that issue should have been linked BTW, I added it),
I strongly believe showing Set[1, 2, 3] instead of MySet[1, 2, 3] for an instance of MySet would be a mistake.

Array and Hash don't show the class name at all, then sure obviously they don't show the subclass name either.
No inspect, if it shows the class name, should ever show the wrong class name, i.e., not obj.class.inspect, that would just be intentional confusion and there is no reason for that.

The example with an anonymous subclass is unrepresentative of realistic usages so hardly matters in comparison.

BTW here is an example of a core class showing the subclass name:

```
class MyModule < Module; end
p MyModule.new # => #<MyModule:0x00007f4e318e3ad8>
```

#3 - 06/05/2025 08:47 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

I prefer Set[1, 2, 3] to #<Set: {1, 2, 3}>. And the name of the subclass should be printed, e.g. MySet[1, 2, 3].

Matz.