

TEACHER GUIDE



Making a Character Come Off The Page

With: Marie Powell

Grade: 1/2

Date: October 22nd

Artistic Discipline: Literary Arts

OVERVIEW

Join Marie Powell as she takes your students through the process of bringing a character to life. She will guide your students through a variety of prompts and writing exercises that will lead to them turning their daydreams into a character that could walk right off the page!



CLASSROOM SETUP

Use whatever sort of classroom setup you normally use for a storytime.

MATERIALS

- Felt Board or White Board (for magnets)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Marie Powell's castle-hopping adventures across North Wales resulted in her medieval fantasy duology, *Last of the Gifted*, set in 13th C Wales. She's authored 40+ children's books with publishers like Scholastic Education and Amicus. Marie also works as a freelance journalist, editor, and English-as-an-Additional-Language instructor, based on Treaty 4 Territory, Regina.



Curriculum Outcomes & Indicators



Grade One

CP1.3 Enter into the fiction provided by the drama.	<i>c. Listen to the contributions of others and seek ways to be inclusive of others' ideas and points of view.</i>
CR1.1 Demonstrate understanding that the arts are a way of expressing ideas about place.	<i>d. Discuss how arts expressions can represent feelings and ideas</i>
CH1.1 Describe the arts and cultural traditions found in own home and school community.	<i>d. Respond to arts expressions found in own home and community, both verbally and non-verbally (e.g., through movement or drawing).</i>

Grade Two

CP2.3 Adopt roles and collaborate with others in role within dramatic contexts, using community as inspiration.	<i>h. Use observations of own community as inspiration when working in and out of role.</i>
CP2.4. Contribute ideas when engaged in a variety of drama strategies (e.g., role, parallel play, journeys, meetings) and during periods of reflection.	<i>d. Use visual images and language to represent ideas, both in and out of role.</i>
CP2.3 Adopt roles and collaborate with others in role within dramatic contexts, using community as inspiration.	<i>e. Use imagination to explore various possibilities in dramatic contexts.</i>

Workshop Vocabulary

Mascot

A person or thing that represents a certain idea, company, sports team etc. (like Tony the Tiger for Frosted Flakes!)

Puppet,

A movable mini-version of a person or animal that we control with our hand and use to tell stories.

Fingerplay

When we use our hands and fingers to help act out a story or sing a song together.

Illustrations/ Illustrator

An illustration is a picture in a book and an illustrator is the person who made the picture.

Author/Writer

An illustration is a picture in a book and an illustrator is the person who made the picture.

Imagination

Our imagination is when we make things up and create ideas, pictures and stories in our mind.

Pre Workshop Exercises



ACTIVITY 1 – Story Songs

- Put on the following Kathy Reid-Naiman song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ONifOPAYlY&list=RD8ONifOPAYlY&start_radio=1

- Have the children listen and then sing along.
- Use this as your 'transfer in' activity

ACTIVITY 2 – Mascot

- You can use a handmade puppet or purchase one online from a teacher's store or Folkmanis online (<https://www.folkmanis.com/>) or even on Amazon.
- The puppet is a good introduction of character, and also a great activity to introduce a storytime or as a check-in to see how everyone is feeling.
- Give the puppet its own perch or house to use it from. It can also be used with a piece of cloth draped over the arm, or even very simply on the end of the arm (wearing long sleeves is best).
- Use a separate voice for the puppet, and have the puppet ask the children questions and make conversation. Some puppets are cheeky puppet, but any sympathetic puppet who likes children will make a good mascot. If you're not familiar with using a puppet, here is a good introduction on how to use a puppet in the classroom: <https://www.folkmanis.com/307/product-demos.htm>

ACTIVITY 3 – Felt stories

Materials – Felt stories (can be homemade by drawing on felt or purchased in sets). For example, animals in a barn, etc

- Tell simple stories using felt animals, characters, and places. A quick search on the Internet shows many possible resources for this activity, including the book and websites like:

<https://jbrary.com/category/storytime-resources/flannel-friday/>

<https://jbrary.com/grade-1-storytime-funny-stuff/>

<https://jeninthelibrary.com/category/storytimes/school-age/>

Broadcast Program

00:00 - 00:05:

- Artist Bio Video + Introduction

00:05 - 00:10:

- Warmups – Songs, fingerplays, action rhymes, puppet mascot

00:10 - 00:20:

- Reading one of Marie's books; showing her new picture book; discuss the book's character(s)

00:20 - 00:30:

- Story Sequence – Introduce the felt characters (frog, butterfly, flower) and have 2-5 children participate one at a time or work in pairs to place the growing sequence for each on the board

00:30 - 00:43:

- Participatory Story – writing a group story together (to go with “Your Illustrated Story” below; or possibly reading and then acting out a storybook (The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything or The Bear Snores On)

00:43-00:45

- Sing “If you're happy and you know it...” as a goodbye

00:45-00:50

- Artist Q & A



Post Workshop Exercises



ACTIVITY 1 – An Illustrated Thank You Card

Materials – crayons or pencil crayons, paper

- Have the children create a picture to give feedback to the author. Lead them with questions like, “What did you like best about today’s presentation? What would you like to tell the author?” etc
- After they have drawn the picture, have them show it and discuss it. These could even be photographed and emailed to the author or to Live Arts (coordinator@livearts.ca)

ACTIVITY 2 – Show and Tell A Character’s Story

Materials – Paper, felt, crayons or felt markers, glue or glue sticks; alternatives include self-adhesive magnet backs on a white board instead of felt on a felt board.

- Have the children draw a 2-3 small circles on a page.
- Ask your students to draw a character in the first circle. Then ask them what are some ways that that character could grow or change? What would they look like next?
- Ask your students to draw 1-2 more changes for that character in the other circles. For example, a tadpole growing legs and a frog; or a seed, pot, flower; or a caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly.
- Cut out the circles as well as some felt squares or circles to be glued onto the back of each picture in the sequence, to help them stick on the felt board. Alternative: use self-adhesive magnets on the backs of the pictures to stick onto the white board.
- Have the students show-and-tell their character’s story to the class.
- Ground your students in a story from their own community by repeating the exercise but this time with a character that comes from your community (ie: an inanimate object they see every day at school, a family member, a bug out in the schoolyard etc)

ACTIVITY 3 – Your Illustrated Story

- Have the children draw the Participatory Story activity from the broadcast using their favorite colors to draw one of the activities from the story.
- Then tell the story again and have the children hold up their pictures at the appropriate moment.
- Alternative: have one or more of the children help tell the story as the others hold up illustrations.

Possible resources to check for further activities:

<https://jbrary.com/category/storytime-resources/flannel-friday/>

<https://jbrary.com/grade-1-storytime-funny-stuff/>

Action Singalong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUXk8Nc5qQ8>

Additional Information

Upcoming Workshops

(French/English)	Nov. 18-20	Julien Hamon-Fafard – Visual Arts (Coil Pots & and an Intro to Clay)
	Jan. 21-22	Lindsay Harpham – Contemporary Dance
	Feb. 11-12	Eric Gabriel – Literary Arts (The Art of Performance/Performance Poetry)
	Mar. 18-19	Ray the Nihilist – Music (Making A Hip Hop Beat)
	Apr. 15-16	Kamisha Alexson – Visual Arts (Designing the 12 Tipi Teachings)
(French/English)	May 5-7	Gabrielle Dufresne – Theatre (Puppetry)

Find out more about Marie on her website:

<https://mariepowell.ca/>

