

TEACHER GUIDE



Making a Character Come Off The Page

With: Marie Powell

Grade: 3/4

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

Group the desks in small circles so there are 4-5 students in a group

MATERIALS

- White board or large paper easel

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 Three

CP3.3 Sustain roles in dramatic situations and accept/respond to others in role, using the environment (e.g., natural, constructed, imagined) as inspiration.	<i>d. Use language purposefully when speaking and writing in role.</i>
CP3.4 Use imagination, a variety of drama strategies, and reflection to further the drama's development.	<i>a. Support contributions to drama discussions with stories of own or community experience.</i>
CR3.1 Describe ideas and problem-solving processes used in own arts expressions.	<i>b. Discuss ideas for own arts expressions incorporating personal interests and experience.</i>

Grade Four

CP4.3 Assume a range of roles and strategies in drama work, using a Saskatchewan context as inspiration.	<i>i. Examine connections between personal experiences and own contributions to the work.</i>
CH4.1 Investigate and share discoveries about the arts in Saskatchewan through collaborative inquiry.	<i>a. Ask questions about Saskatchewan arts expressions to initiate, develop, and document inquiry learning.</i>
CP4.4 Contribute ideas, when in and out of role, and further the development of the drama by participating in consensus building, choice of strategies, and selection of dramatic alternatives.	<i>h. Contribute to problem solving within the dramatic context.</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 – Silly songs

- Use the action rhymes/songs in any of the following videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLksn3xeH3SFT7yrjDTbT3qsHS1Pse452s>
- Sing or say the rhymes with the actions. For example, My Aunt Came Back: ask the children for ideas about what to add next (i.e. a Saskatchewan location) and what it can rhyme with to make a verse of the song with actions. Some examples: Saskatoon – a wooden spoon; Estevan – a roasting pan (mime holding a pan and put a lid on); etc.

ACTIVITY 2 – Illustrated Characters

- Read a book or poem and ask the students to draw the character in their favorite part of it. For example: Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GSnmRZlgc4>
- Have the kids sing and act out tapping their shoes in the chorus.
- Then ask the children to draw a picture to illustrate Pete in their favorite color of shoes.
- Grade 4 variation: Fold a paper in half and have the students draw the story sequence: Pete the Cat – puts on white shoes – steps in a colored puddle – the shoes turn that color. Optional: Ask the students to show-and-tell their stories to the class, or explain what the character is like or what they are doing in the picture.

ACTIVITY 3 - Real Life Characters

Materials - 2.5" x 3.5" Cards cut out (preferably on stiffer paper), Pencil, Pencil Crayons

- Ask your students what they think a ‘character’ is. Help them explore that idea a little through discussion.
- Ask the students what some of their favorite characters are (in TV, Books, Video Games etc).
- Show your students some examples of trading cards (baseball, superheroes etc)
<https://www.examples.com/design/trading-card-examples.html>
https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Marvel_Universe_Cards
- Have your students write their name and make a quick sketch of themselves on a small 2.5" x 3.5" card
- On the back of the card have your students fill in information about themselves/their character (ie: likes, dislikes, special talents etc)
- If there's time, have your students make another card for someone else they know (it could even be a pet or inanimate object). But ask them not to make one about anyone in the classroom.

Broadcast Program

00:00 - 00:05:

- Artist Bio Video + Introduction

00:05 - 00:10:

- Book talk a few of Marie's middle-grade books – talk about nonfiction vs fiction in terms of real vs imaginary “characters” – making choices

00:10 - 00:20:

- Show the storyboard for the picture books and discuss the parts of a book
- Read Marie's new picture book
- Quick Brain break – action song, rhyme, etc

00:20 - 00:35:

- Participatory Storytelling – Write a story together about a character we create together based on questions; Read and act out a story like *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* by Linda Williams
- Quick Brain break – action song, rhyme, etc

00:35 - 00:45:

- Talk about being a writer and the process of editing and illustrating; answering questions

00:45 - 00:50:

- Sing a final song together



Post Workshop Exercises



ACTIVITY 1 - An Illustrated Thank You Card

- 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 – 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 (solo or in groups).
- Alternative: have one or more of the children help tell the story as the others hold up illustrations.

ACTIVITY 3 – Show and Tell Stories

Materials – Paper, felt, crayons or felt markers, glue or glue sticks, felt pieces or small self-adhesive magnets on a felt or white board.

- Fold a paper in four parts, and ask the students to draw a character doing something in each part.
- For example, use a prompt like, “Draw a story about what happened this morning before school” might have a sequence that shows the child wakes up – has breakfast – rides bike to school – meets friends in the playground. Or a nonfiction story: a seed – planted in a pot – sprouts – becomes a flower; etc.
- Optional: Ask the students to show-and-tell their stories to the class.

Possible resources to check for further activities:

<https://jeninthelibrary.com/category/storytimes/school-age/>
Youtube Grade 3 Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLksn3xeH3SFT7yrjDTbT3qsHS1Pse452s>

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/>

