

TEACHER GUIDE



Making a Character Come Off The Page

With: Marie Powell

Grade: 5/6

Date: October 23rd

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 (so we can write a story together)

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 Five

CP5.4 Create drama using pop culture as inspiration (e.g., pop musicians and movie stars, street theatre, or stories and myths from pop culture).	<i>c. Use imagination to help extend the dramatic context.</i>
CR5.2 Respond critically and creatively to a variety of pop culture expressions.	<i>a. Research contemporary popular Canadian artists and arts expressions and create own work in response.</i>
CP5.3 Demonstrate how various roles, strategies, and elements (e.g., tension, contrast, symbols) function within a drama.	<i>g. Investigate the use of contrast in drama work.</i>

Grade Six

CH6.1 Investigate how personal, cultural, or regional identity may be reflected in arts expressions.	<i>b. Participate, when possible, in partnerships with Saskatchewan artists and arts organizations to increase understanding of arts content and practices, and to understand how identity may be expressed in various art forms.</i>
CP6.4 Initiate and develop roles in selected drama forms (e.g., contextual, improv, puppetry, radio drama).	<i>f. Draw on own life experience and imagination when speaking and representing ideas in role.</i>
CP6.5 Select and use focus, tension, conflict, and symbol to convey ideas.	<i>b. Suggest various ways to create a sense of tension or conflict in the drama work.</i>

Workshop Vocabulary

Mascot

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

Revise

To revise something is to sit down with what you've already written and figure out all the ways you can make the writing better.

Fiction/Non Fiction

Fiction is something that is invented, like a story we made from our imaginations. Nonfiction is the opposite, something that is true!

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.

Author

The author of a book or story is the person who wrote the book or story.

Pre Workshop Exercises



ACTIVITY 1 – Meet the Character

- Listen to “Brave” by Sara Bareilles. ...” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUQsqBqxoR4>
Or “Breakaway” by Kelly Clarkson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-3vPxKdj6o>
- The singer is also playing a character in the video. Imagine that you are have a conversation with the character who sings that song. What would you talk about? Start with that singer/character saying Hello to you... (Write for 1-2 minutes.)
- Variation: use any character from the video Brave by Sara Bareilles.

ACTIVITY 2 – Illustrated Characters

Materials – Paper, pencil, pencil crayons or felt markers, or magazines/scissors/glue for collage

- Read a short story or narrative poem and ask the students to draw the character in their favourite part of it, or collage a picture of the character based on the story/poem.
- 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 illustration.
- Variation: Write for 5 minutes: What would happen if you met the character in that story/poem?

ACTIVITY 3 – Word Books

Materials – Mini Notebook

- Have the students collect words and phrases they hear throughout the week, by jotting them down in a mini notebook. You can get mini notebooks at the Dollar store in packs of 3, or use any notebook or pad that’s small enough to carry in a pocket or backpack.
- Once a week or so, have the students choose a specific number of words from their notebook at random, and write a story or poem based on those words in a timed exercise for 3-5 minutes.
- Optional: share the stories in groups or in the classroom. Rinse and repeat.

ACTIVITY 4 - 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 - 00:15:

- Book talk a few of Marie's older elementary books – talk about nonfiction vs fiction in terms of making choices to reveal a person's character; discuss character in terms of actions that reveal character to us as readers

00:15 - 00:20:

- Show the storyboard for picture books and discuss the parts of a book

00:20 - 00:30:

- Create a character in response to writing prompt questions; optional – share the characters in their groups

00:30 - 00:40:

- Use a prompt to write a story for the character they have created; share the stories in groups

00:40 - 00:50:

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



Post Workshop Exercises



ACTIVITY 1 – Storyboarding

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

- After creating a character using the writing prompts in the workshop broadcast: Fold a paper 8X11 in four parts (Grade 5) or legal-sized paper in 8 parts (Grade 6) to create a storyboard.
- Use writing prompts as needed to have the students brainstorm a story for their character and share their ideas in groups. You can use story prompts like the following (but just use the 1st and last column):
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/index>
- Have the students break their story into 8 parts, to show the beginning, middle, and end.
- Then ask the students to draw (or write) their character doing something in each square of the page.
- Optional: Ask the students to show-and-tell their stories to the class.

ACTIVITY 2 – Collage Prompt

Materials – Old magazines, tourism guides, etc; scissors, paper, glue, markers, pen/pencil

- Have the students think about a character for a story. Look through the magazines you've gathered as collage materials to find pictures and words related to that character: favourite colour(s), decorations in their room, where they like to go during the day, special holidays they've been on, other questions from the list used in the workshop.
- Have them choose 10-20 pictures or words/phrases at random, cut them out, paste them onto a paper in any order they choose.
- Optional: have them show-and-tell the resulting collage in small groups or with the class.
- Finally, write about the character using as many words or images from the collage as they can.
- Optional: share the stories in small groups or with the class.

ACTIVITY 3 - Our Fav Creators

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

- Have your students make a list of some of their favorite characters.
- Ask your students to start an online research hunt to find a Canadian artist involved in the creation of one of their favorite characters (ie: an author, animator etc)
- Once they've found a Canadian artist, have them find out what other art they've worked on.
- Have your students create a trading card (like in the pre workshop activities) for one of the characters that that artist has worked on.

Writing prompts online:

<https://www.nightzookeeper.com/worksheets/elementary-writing-prompts/grade-5>

<https://www.nightzookeeper.com/worksheets/elementary-writing-prompts/grade-6>

<https://www.derbyshirewritingschool.com/blog/15-quick-writing-prompts-to-bring-your-character-to-life>

<https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en/blog/writing-prompts-for-kids>

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/>

