

# CHARACTERS DON'T HAVE TO BE PEOPLE

This lesson uses puppets to help students create characters. You can have your students create their own puppets, or even use classroom objects in place of puppets. For example, what would a crayon sound like if it could talk? Why might a blue crayon be in conflict with a red crayon?

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**DURATION:** 10 - 20 min. depending on age

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## 21st CENTURY SKILLS:

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|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critical thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Information literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creativity        | <input type="checkbox"/> Media literacy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration                | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology literacy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Productivity          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication                | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social skills         |

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## DIRECTIONS

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1. Ask the class: what traits affect how a character talks and acts? (personality, age, emotion, species, etc)
2. Pass out finger puppets. Individually, have students name their puppet and assign them character traits. Give them a moment to think about how their character would speak and move. You might even ask them to write down something about their character.
3. In pairs, have students introduce their puppets to each other.
4. Either assign a conflict, or brainstorm ideas for conflicts on the board and allow each pair to choose from the list. Give students a few minutes to improvise a scene about the assigned or chosen conflict. Remind them that their characters must use their words to resolve their conflict, not violence!
5. Ask for a pair to volunteer to perform their scene for the class. Then ask questions to review:
  - Who are the characters
  - What do they want? What is the conflict?
  - How did the characters get (or try to get) what they want? What other tactics could they use?

# GRADES K-6

TH:Cr2.1  
TH:Cr3.1  
TH:Pr4.1

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## MATERIALS:

- a finger puppet for each student

## REFLECTION:

- How did you decide what your character would sound like?
- How is your character similar or different from you?

