

**Name:** Nicole Stabile

**Enduring Idea:** Artists transform simple materials into expressive characters that communicate identity, imagination, and storytelling..

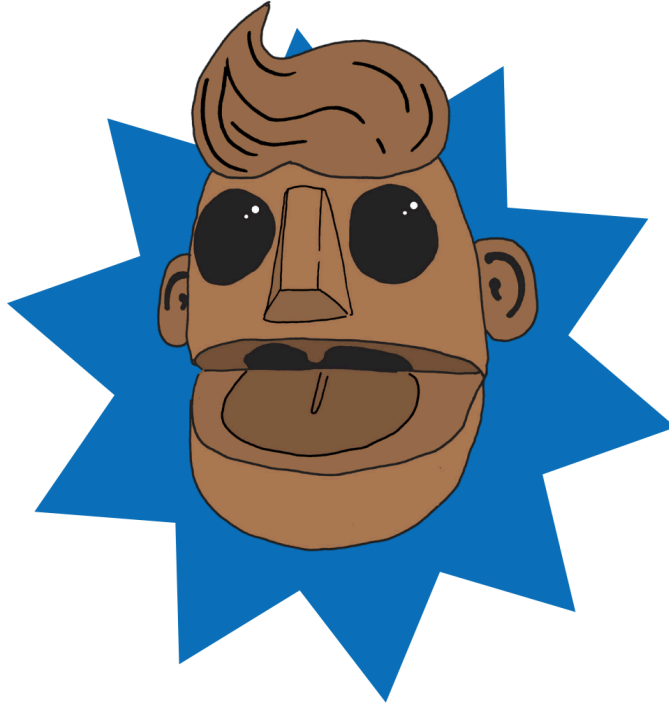
**Lesson Title:** Puppet Heads: Designing Expressive Characters

**Age:** 9-11 years old

**Time Allotment:** 1 class period, approximately 3 hours long

## Lesson Plan Overview

1. Lesson Summary: Students will construct paper puppet heads using a template and personalize them with their own creative details. Through assembling, decorating, and experimenting, students explore character design and expressive form.
2. Rationale (The Why): We build puppets to explore how simple shapes can be transformed into expressive characters. This project helps students understand design, practice fine-motor construction skills, and learn how visual choices communicate personality, emotion, and story.
3. Artworks, Artists, and/or Artifacts:
  - Samuel J. Wilde – “Cardboard Puppet Head Template” (from ChompShop)



#### 4. Key Concepts:

1. Transformation of Materials – turning flat patterns into 3D forms.
2. Character Design – using features, color, and shape to create personality.
3. Construction Techniques – cutting, folding, attaching, problem-solving.

#### 5. Essential Questions:

1. How can simple materials be changed to become expressive artwork?
2. How do visual details communicate a character's personality or story?
3. What choices can an artist make to bring an imagined character to life?

#### 6. Standards:

- VA:Cr1.1.5a – Engage in and expand creative exploration and risk taking.
- VA:Cr2.1.5a – Experiment and develop skills in multiple artmaking techniques.
- VA:Cr2.3.5a – Identify, describe, and visually document places and/or objects of personal significance.
- VA:Re7.2.5a – Identify different genres, styles, and media in artworks.

#### 7. Interdisciplinary Connections:

- Engineering & Design: Planning, sequencing, and constructing the puppet head (spatial reasoning & problem-solving).

## Objectives

1. Students will identify essential puppet-building vocabulary (tabs, folds, attachments, features) and explain the purpose of each.
2. Students will construct a three-dimensional puppet head by cutting, folding, taping, and assembling template pieces.
3. Students will design unique character features (eyes, mouth, hair, accessories) using drawing and additional custom paper elements.
4. Students will demonstrate creativity and persistence while solving construction challenges and making personal artistic choices.

## **Assessment**

Pre-Assessment: Teacher will have a quick check-in with students, asking “What makes a character expressive?” Students will share examples.

Formative Assessment: Teacher will midway share-out where students show progress and explain a design choice. Peers will offer brief feedback to those around them.

Summative Assessment: Students will complete their artwork and in a group, reflect on what went well and what they struggled with.

## **Instructional Procedures**

### **Engagement/Hook:**

The teacher will show a finished sample puppet head. The teacher will then ask, “What kind of character could you invent today?” Students do a quick sketch of a character's face that they want to build before getting started.

### **Development: Part 1 - Template Creation**

The teacher will hand out a printed sheet with all of the needed pieces on it to the students along with a sheet of cardstock. The teacher will then demonstrate how to use the graphite transfer method to draw out the template pieces onto the cardstock. The students will then complete their transfers and cut out the pieces once done.

### **Development: Part 2 - Personalizing Characters**

Once the pieces are cut out, students will then start customizing their pieces. Coloring straight onto the template or using construction paper and glueing on, students will personalize their characters, adding the details needed to bring their character to life. The teacher will be walking around, making sure the students are adding their details to the correct pieces.

### **Development: Part 3 — Assembly**

After the main details are added to the template pieces, the teacher will give a follow-along demonstration on how to assemble puppet heads. Students will use tape and glue to attach the tabs to construct the basic puppet head. The teacher will encourage testing movement, ensuring sturdiness, and troubleshooting mini-lessons if pieces don't align.

### **Culmination / Close**

Once puppets are finalized, each student holds up their puppet and states what character they create and one artistic choice they made and why. Clean-up takes place after this closing activity.

## Preparation:

### 1. Teacher Research and Preparation:

- Create sheet of template pieces
- Print enough template sheets for all students + extras

### 2. Supplementary Materials:

- Template Sheet

### 3. Student Supplies:

- 11x17" template sheets
- 11x17" cardstock paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Tacky glue
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Sharpies
- Construction paper (variety of colors)

### 4. Exemplars:



## 5. Supplementary Material:

