

# Make-Up Characters

Girls will especially love this activity which integrates reading, make-up, and art into a memorable character exploration. Don't worry ~ we'll involve the boys also!

Supplies: story book, white paper, make-up (can be Mom's almost finished/soon to be thrown away make-up or the cheaper make-up found in dollar stores)

Preparation: none

What to Do: Try to pick a story with a well-described main character. (Madeline, Corduroy, Green Eggs & Ham, for example.) After reading the story together, draw a picture of the main character. While drawing, discuss the traits of this lead character. What does the character look like? How does he or she act? What are his or her likes and dislikes? What makes this character different from others? What quality about him or her would you like/not like to have? How did this character make a difference in the story? Write the words your learner uses to describe the character on the paper around the drawing.

Then, allow your youngster some time to use the make-up to color the character. (Blush on the character's cheeks, eye shadow to color the hair, nail polish for the clothing! Let your child be creative.) This activity turns out beautiful character art which can be proudly displayed. And from your discussion and reading together, your learner will develop a solid understanding of the qualities that make that character unique!

Here is a way to involve the boys if they're not involved already! After reading the story, discuss the setting (place) in detail. What did the main setting of the story look like? What colors did you think of when you pictured that setting? Of what real place does it remind you? Encourage him to draw a picture of that setting. Tell him he's going to **make up** the scene by choosing colors and lighting the way they do on movie sets. You can have him color it in with - you guessed it - the make-up!