

Make-Up Characters

Analysis of a story's main character will enhance your learner's deductive and inductive reasoning skills. This novel art activity will make it an entertaining and memorable activity as well.

Supplies: Storybook, 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)

Pick a story with a strong, unique main character. *Madeline, Corduroy, Green Eggs and Ham, Charlotte's Web, and Stuart Little* are a few examples. After reading the story together, help your child sketch a picture of the main character. While drawing, discuss the traits of this lead character. What does the character look like? How did he or she act in the story? 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 some of the descriptive words your child uses on the drawing.

Next, allow your youngster some time to use the make-up to color the character. Blush on the character's cheeks, eyeshadow to color the hair, or nail polish for the clothing details are just a few of the ways your child can be creative. Encourage your child to create additional drawings and descriptions of the other characters in the story. Bind together to create a character booklet.

Extensions:

- After reading the story, discuss the setting (place) of the story 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? Invite your child to draw a picture of the story setting as if it were being designed for a TV or movie set. Tell your young learner to *make up* the scene by choosing colors and lighting the way they do on movie sets.
- Encourage your learner to actually "make up" or create a new character that they think would be an interesting addition to the story. How would this new character change the storyline? What would he or she look like? How would this new personality improve the story?

Skill Set: Loving Literature
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www.readinghouse.com/book

