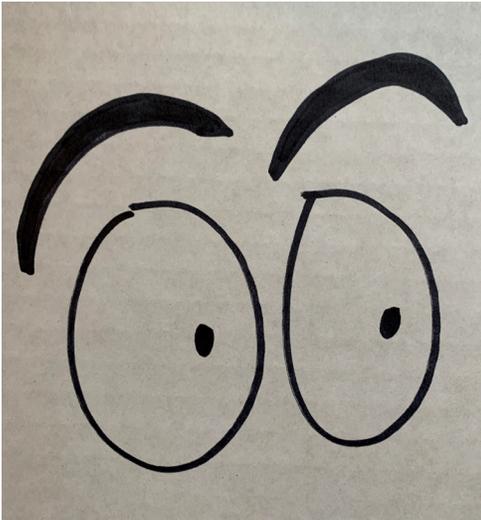


Cartoon Remix!

Suggested by Zach Bartz, Chicago artist



Use some of your favorite cartoon or comic characters to inspire a character of your own!

Learning objectives

- Observe and replicate elements of a drawing
- Practice fine motor skills
- Develop a character's backstory
- If developing a comic, graphic story, or film, practicing language skills

Materials needed

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers – something to draw with
- Computer/tablet/phone, comic books, advertisements, toys –something with a picture of a cartoon character on it

A cartoon is a funny drawing or illustration. Cartoonists and animators rely on design principles to develop characters and their stories. Is the character a good guy or a bad guy? Are they smart? Are they brave? Are they from a fantasy world? How does the design of their hair, eyes, mouth, and clothing communicate these important characteristics? How does where they live or work also show (or disguise) their personality? All of these design choices help the audience better understand the character and the choices the character makes. Are you ready to design your own character?

— **Step 1: Pick your characters and do some research.**

Make a list of your favorite cartoon characters. Pick three, then Google images of them to use as a reference. Can't Google it? No problem! You can use comic, advertisements, cereal boxes, anything with a picture of a cartoon character.

— **Step 2: Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.**

Choose one character's eyes and recreate them on a new sheet of paper. Choose a second character, different from the first, and recreate their nose on the same sheet. Draw the mouth of the last character on your paper, and then put the references away.

— **Step 3: Use your imagination!**

Using your remixed cartoon's face as inspiration, create the rest of the character (ears, hair, eyebrows, etc). Does this new character wear glasses? Do they have a beard? When the head is finished, move on to the rest of the body. You can use your favorite characters to inspire body parts or clothing too, but be creative! Come up with your characters backstory –where do they live? How old are they? Do they have a job? Who are their friends? Let your imagination go wild!

Want to keep going?

- Draw different characters with other inspirations
- Draw a comic strip or book with your character
- Create a stop motion video with your character
- Write a graphic story about your character
- Draw brand new characters!

When you're done with your project, take a picture and share it with us too! You can tag us on social media (@designmuseumchi on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) or email us at info@designchicago.org. We're looking forward to seeing your work!