



Module Two

Handout: Illustrating characters

Characters are everywhere and your characters are an important part of your story-making. Sometimes the character might even come before the story. As an illustrator, I see characters in most things and often see adults as they were when they were children. I also imagine people in my life as animals and animals in my life as people. Try it ... it's really fun.

When thinking of characters, decide if they might like to have a special something. These little details are a way of making your character endearing and charming. A quirky characteristic may help your character to stand out and stay consistent.

Use your sheets or pads of paper for drawing characters and doing tasks throughout the month.

Through the month, you will invent many different characters but to nudge you along start with these:

- An animal
- A bug
- A human
- A child
- An object, for example, a tree or a rock.

Watch the videos to see examples of creating a character, adding expressions and accessories, keeping the character consistent, seeing the character in different angles, and putting them in their environment. Creating characters is one of the things I enjoy the most. I love dressing them and giving them a place to live. I mostly enjoy giving them traits that are recognisable in myself or people and animals in my life. After a while the character will tell me how they want to look, what they like to wear and they will choose where they would like to live. I just have to listen very closely!

I love my characters, they are cherished friends of mine and I am sure your characters will speak and play and listen to you too. Get ready for your imagination to really take flight.

