

CHARACTER DESIGN

Who is your favorite storybook character?

If you were to create your own character, what would they be like?

How would you describe the Cape Ann Characters to the right?

This art project will be about character design.



Sketch of Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton, undated. From the Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios Collection. Gift of the Demetrios family. [#2019.011]



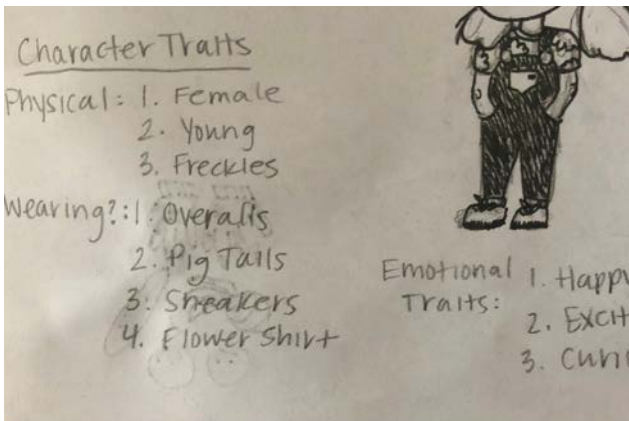
Photo Archive image #12240. Photographer Gerda Peterich. From the Barbarak Erkkila Collection [Acc. # 2001.50]

VIRGINIA LEE BURTON

Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios (1909-1968) was born in Newton Center, Massachusetts. She enrolled in sculptor George Demetrios' drawing class at the Boston Museum School, and the following spring the two were married. They settled in Folly Cove on Cape Ann in 1932. In addition to forming and leading the Folly Cove Designers, a printmaking guild, Demetrios wrote and illustrated children's books under the name Virginia Lee Burton. Now it is your turn to create a story with characters that you design! Lets begin by creating our own characters that we later will write into a comic strip.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Two pieces of paper
- Pencil
- Black pen
- Coloring materials



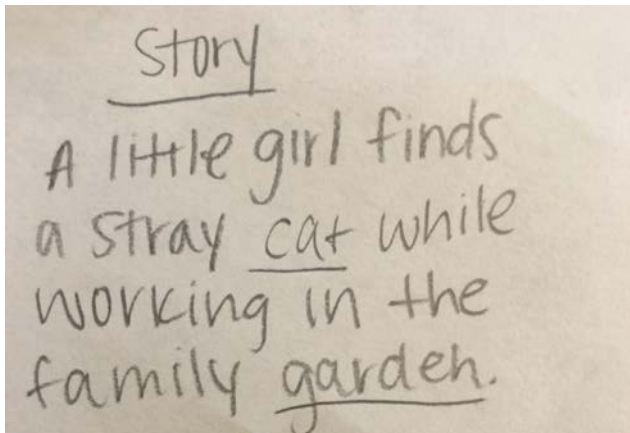
STEP ONE

Take your first sheet of paper and in the top left corner create a list titled: Character Traits. Write down, like I did in my list, 4 physical traits about what your character will look like, 4 items of clothing or accessories that your character will wear and 4 emotional traits, what will your character act like?



STEP TWO

To the right of your list begin to sketch out different ideas of what your character could look like. Remember to include the traits that you listed earlier. Think about different hair styles, body types, and facial expressions that you can give to your character so they appear to be the character you described in your list. Aim for three sketches and then choose your favorite.



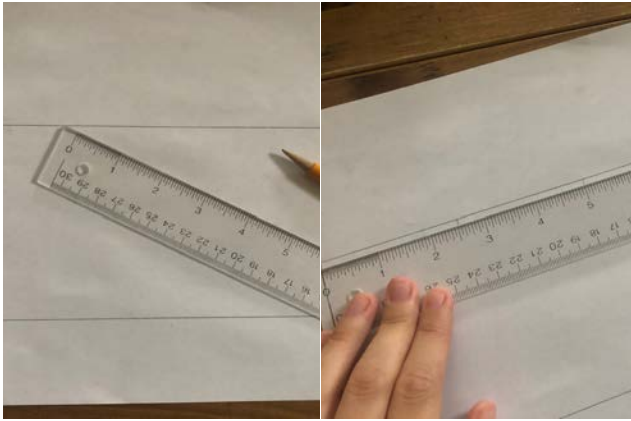
STEP THREE

Once you have chosen your favorite sketch, write a one sentence story that you will later expand into a five block comic strip. The story I chose for my character was; A girl working in her family garden finds a stray kitten to take home.



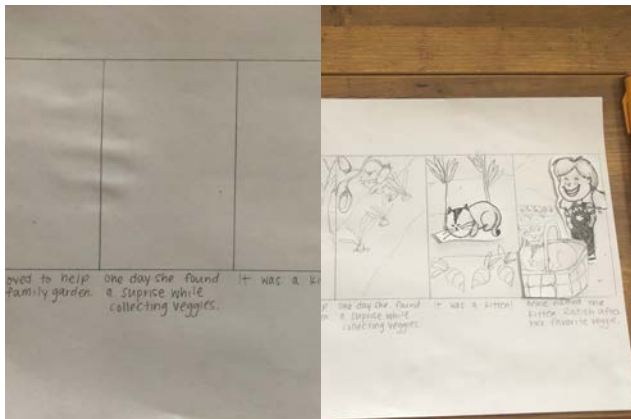
STEP FOUR

Once you have written your one sentence story, pick out the details that you will have to illustrate along with your character. My two details were a garden and a kitten. I drew the kitten I wanted to include in my comic strip and the different garden tools and vegetables to add as details in my drawings for my comic strip.



STEP FIVE

Next you are going to create your comic strip. Take your second piece of paper and use a ruler to make a 4" x 10" rectangle in the middle of your paper. Then every 2.5" make a mark. To help, you will be making a mark at 2.5", 5" and 7.5." Connect the marks from the top to the bottom of the rectangle.



STEP SIX

Next you are going to write your story underneath the comic strip that you have created. Think about how each box is going to be telling a different part of the story that you will then illustrate. Once you have written your story, draw a picture inside each box helping to tell the story through drawings.



STEP SEVEN

Once you have written your story and drawn all of your pictures into the comic strip boxes, outline your drawing in a thin black marker or black pen. You can erase your pencil lines if you would like!



STEP EIGHT

To finish, color in your comic strip using whatever coloring materials you have at home. Do not forget to sign your name at the bottom of your paper as every artist should! Have a parent or guardian post your creation to Instagram and use the hashtag #CAMkidscreate so we can share what you've made on our account!

Questions? Email education@capeannmuseum.org. Visit us at www.capeannmuseum.org

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