



Our imaginations are an amazing place where ideas buzz around and your dreams run wild, we can harness this energy to be creative. Finding time to be creative can be comforting and during difficult times; it can focus our minds and allow us to escape into the safe world of our imagination.

This activity is about creating weird and wonderful characters, using whatever art materials you have to hand. If drawing isn't your thing, no problem you can use the power of words to describe your character.



Step 1

Think about what kind of character you want to create...

- Is it a human
- Is it an animal
- Is it a monster or alien
- Is it an animal hybrid
- Think about things that interest you and create a character that fits in with that theme.

Step 2

Think about your characters personality / things that they like or dislike / their habitat...

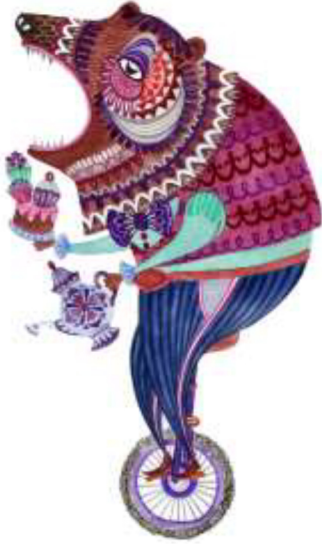
- Make a list of words that describe its personality the more words the better?
- How old is you character?
- What does your character like to eat?
- List their likes and dislikes?
- Do they have any hobbies or special talents?
- Where do they live? What part of the world? Are they from earth or another planet? Describe their habitat.



Step 3

What does your character look like?

- Is your character big or small, tall or short, hairy or bald etc?
- Does it have any unusual or striking features?



Get to know your character, make lists, and write down ideas, maybe sketch out some quick drawings if writing isn't for you. The more you can visualise your character in your mind the more convincing your character will be and the easier you will find it to draw.

When you feel you know enough about your character it's time to start drawing...

There is no wrong way to draw, everyone draws differently and that's ok, draw in the way that feels comfortable to you. Remember drawings are just lots of different shapes and patterns all put together, sometimes with colours added in. Use your ideas this will help you make decisions about how you might want to draw your character. Here's a few drawing tips to get you started...

- Think about the shapes that make up your character. What shape is their head? Their body? Do they

have long or short limbs? Do they have a tail or tentacles?

- Think about the emotion your character might be feeling and how the shape of their facial features and bodies may change to communicate this emotion. If they are surprised they may have big bulging eyes, if they are angry they may have hunched shoulders.
- Think about what accessories or physical attributes your character may have to help communicate their hobbies or personalities. What could a jazzy hat or shoes tell us? If our character is lazy do they have messy hair?
- Will the colours you use tell us something about your characters personality?
- What setting, situation or habitat will you draw your character in?

When you have created one character why not create another? You could start to write some stories that include your characters? Before you know it you could have created your own zine or book!

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