



Characterization

Objective: The students will draw pictures to generate ideas about a character.

Materials

- copy of “Create a Character” (page 26) for each student
- overhead transparency of “Identifying Character Traits” (page 27)
- copy of “Identifying Character Traits” (page 27) for each student
- colored pencils or crayons
- scissors
- copy of *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig (See the bibliography on pages 142 and 143.)

Procedure

1. Read the story aloud to the class. After you have finished, ask students to think about the people in this story. Using the overhead transparency, write the name of a main character from the story in each circle. As a class, brainstorm a list of words that could be used to describe the characters in this story. Write down as many words in the character web as students can generate.
2. Explain to students that these animals are called the characters of this story. The characters are an important part of a story. Characters can be people or animals. Ask students to think back on different stories they have read before. Who were some of the characters in those stories? Encourage students to share examples. (Some examples might include the Berenstain Bears, Clifford, Sesame Street characters, etc.)
3. Next, brainstorm a list of other character traits that can be used to describe a character. Write these on the chalkboard. Then distribute a copy of “Create a Character” (page 26) to each student. Using the list of words on the chalkboard, students select one or more words from the list and create a character. Using colored pencils or crayons, have students draw the face of this character. Some of the descriptions are harder to capture in a drawing than others.
4. Divide students into groups of four or five. Have each student take a turn to share his or her character face. Have students describe to the members in the group all they can about their character. Have students cut out characters and post them on a bulletin board.

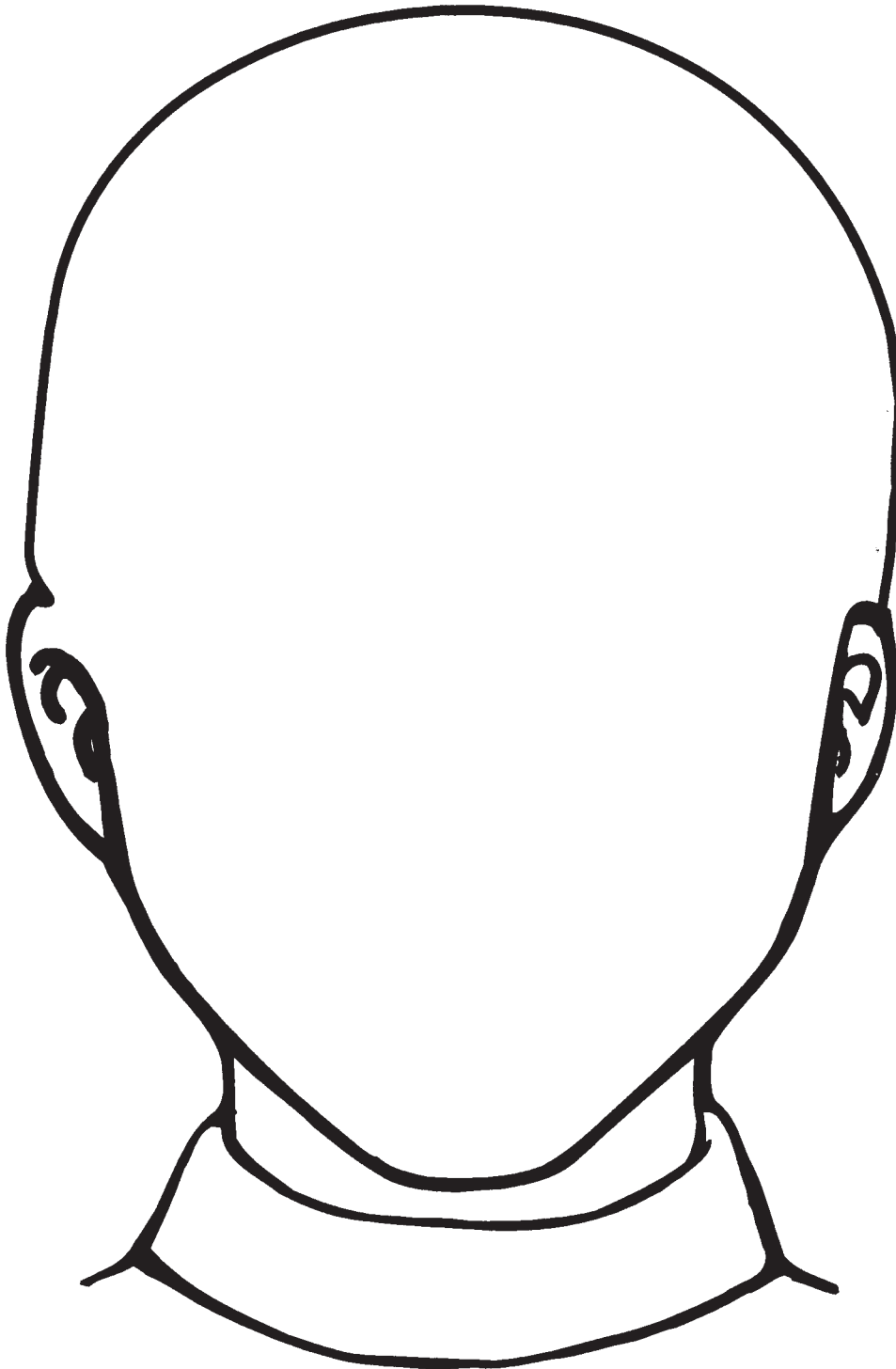
Portfolio Piece

Distribute copies of “Identifying Character Traits” (page 27) to students. On this page, have students write down descriptive words about the characters they designed on the character face. Next, have students think of new characters and then write descriptive words for them. Store this page in the students’ portfolios. These characters can be used in future stories.

Assessment

- Check to see that students have completed the student pages.
- Check off skills 1A and 1F on the teacher checklist (pages 20 and 21) and use “Elements of Story Writing Assessment Rubric” (page 35) to assess student work.

Create a Character



Identifying Character Traits

Write the name of a character in the circle. On each line, write a descriptive word that tells something about the character in the circle. You may add more lines to each circle if you need them. The first one has been done for you.

The image contains four identical character trait diagrams arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each diagram consists of a central circle with five lines radiating outwards to the top-left, top, top-right, bottom, and bottom-right. The top-left diagram is pre-filled with the name 'Sylvester' in the center circle and the following traits on the lines: 'only child' (top-left), 'collects rocks' (top), 'curious' (top-right), 'friendly' (bottom), and 'donkey' (bottom-right). The other three diagrams are blank templates for students to use.