



## Create and Act Out a Character

6th Grade Creative & Performing Arts

Common Core Standard 6.TH:Cn10— Explain how the actions and motivations of characters in a drama/theatre work impact perspectives of a community or culture.

When we see actors in movies and on stage, we don't often think about what it takes for them to create and play their characters convincingly. A lot of work goes into it! Give it a shot yourself and create a character for you to play around your home. Your character can be whoever or whatever you want it to be. The only rule here is that your character cannot be a way to make fun of anyone else. Once you've gotten a feel for who your character is, interact with your friends and family as your character.

### **Materials:**

- Paper and writing utensil (if desired)

**Developmental Objectives/Domains:** By completing this activity, you will:

- 1.) Develop skills in character creation and psychology
- 2.) Understand how actors act and react given a set of characteristics to play

### 3.) Enhance your understanding of behavior through acting

#### **Procedure:**

1. Answer the following questions about what your character is like today. You can write down your answers if you'd like, or just remember them. Think about who you want your character to be. If you already have an idea, answer the questions with that idea in mind. If not, start by answering them randomly and then build your character to make sense with those random answers. Feel free to add and answer any other questions you can think of. \*\*\*Note: this activity is not necessarily for staging a movie or play, though it can be if you want it to be. For now, at least get a feel for character building and reacting to life as your character.
  - a. What species is your character?
  - b. What does your character look like? Draw a sketch if you'd like.
  - c. How does your character speak, if at all?
  - d. What does your character's voice sound like?
  - e. How old is your character?
  - f. Where does your character live?
  - g. With whom does your character live? Your answer could be "no one."
  - h. What does your character like to do?
2. Now, use these next questions to create a past for your character. Though we often don't realize it, much of how we act, think, and feel in real life has a lot to do with experiences we have lived through. Think about how your answers to these next questions changed your character. Feel free to add and answer any other questions you can think of.
  - a. What is the greatest physical injury your character has suffered?
  - b. What happened on the happiest day of your character's life so far?
  - c. What happened on the saddest day of your character's life so far?
  - d. What is the strangest thing that has ever happened to your character?
  - e. Where has your character spent most of its life?
  - f. What is your character's greatest fear? What happened, if anything, to make that fear the greatest?

