

CHOICES – Personality

QUEST 8: Comic relief

Teacher notes

Curriculum links:

Art, Literacy

Key Stage: Key Stage 2

Zone Relevance: Choices

Aim:

To introduce the idea of characters which provide comic relief to tense or scary situations. You can easily modify this dramatic lesson to a writing lesson.

Background:

Films and books are full of characters that make us laugh at just the right time. They bring a light feeling to doom and gloom in stories. These characters are known as comic relief. Comic relief is the presence of funny episodes in a dramatic or literary work that offset more serious sections. The Star Wars universe includes quite a few very memorable characters that provide comic relief in tense scenes. R2-D2 and C-3PO are excellent examples of comic relief, as they make light of difficult situations. C-3PO is often found criticising the desperate situation the other characters find themselves in and R2-D2 is often found criticising (through a series of beeps) C-3PO's neurotic and scared nature.

Activity 1:

- a. Talk about popular characters that bring some humour to dark stories.
- b. Using Pupil worksheet 1, ask pupils whether they can name any comic relief characters from movies they have seen or books they have read and write these on the worksheet.
- c. Once they have spent 15 minutes listing these characters, ask your class whether they think these characters are protagonists or antagonists and how they manage to make light of scary or upsetting situations. Do they make jokes? Are they good at slap stick?

Activity 2:

Using aspects from some of the characters they have named, ask pupils to create the ultimate sidekick/comic relief character on Pupil worksheet 2. They should consider what this character looks like and whether they are a hero or an antagonist. They should also think about what the character does that is so funny.



Things to think about:

- What kind of situation will the other characters be in that would necessitate some comic relief?
- How does the comedic character fit into the group/situation?

Activity 3

Using the storyboard template on Pupil worksheet 3, ask pupils to plan a story involving their character and a situation where he or she has brought comedy to a dark or scary situation.

Adapted from an original document created by The Edmonton Telus Science Center.

Pupil worksheet 1

Can you make a list of any characters from a movie, book or TV show that provide comedy in a serious or scary situation.

Name of character	Movie, book or TV show the character is from	How does the character make a serious or scary situation funny?

Pupil worksheet 2

Using some of the traits from the characters you listed on Pupil worksheet 1, create your own sidekick/comedy character in the space below.

Think about what your character will look like and what your character does that is so funny.

Draw your character below



What is the name of your character?

What does your character do that is so funny?

Pupil worksheet 3

Planning and writing a story can be made easier by using a storyboard. A storyboard can be used to help you plan a story as it shows what is going to happen. You can tell your story either by drawing pictures or by writing sentences. Plan a story involving your character and a situation where he or she has brought comedy to a dark or scary scene in the storyboard template below.

