Art & Design

Shakespeare Week Art School

Marcia Williams

Watch Marcia's Art School video in the video resources section and follow her top tips to help you draw one of Shakespeare's characters.

1. Choose a Shakespeare character you can relate to. The stronger you feel about the character, either in sympathy or in horror, the easier it will be to depict their character.



2. Start by making a list of their strongest emotions. For example, are they: happy, sad, jealous, angry, loving, kind etc.? Then decide how you want to depict them in your picture.

3. Pretend that you are the character and try to really imagine what it is like to feel the emotion you are giving your character.

4. Now look in a mirror and see how this emotion changes your face and body. For example if you're happy, your eyes might widen, or your whole face may crinkle into a smile, you might start jumping up and down, clapping, doing a little dance. But if you're angry your eyes might narrow, your mouth tighten, you might clench your fists.



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5. What is your character saying? Knowing this may help you animate your character and depict their mood.



6. Most of all, have fun. I think Shakespeare probably had a lot of fun writing his plays, which is one of the reasons they are so appealing, try and bring some of his fun and passion to your illustration and you'll smash it.



7. Don't forget to use colour to help you show the emotion of your character, there are happy, sad, noisy and peaceful colours so it is worth exploring which ones will work for you.

Last, but not least: You do not have to be a brilliant artist to depict a character and their emotion. If you really feel that emotion so will your pencil - however simple your drawing.

Good luck!



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