



4A KIDS Spring 2020 – this is the third 4A KIDS kit!



nathanbeard.org

Nathan Beard is a Perth-based artist who uses various mediums such as photography and sculpture to unpack the influences of his Thai-Australian heritage.



fredachiu.com

Freda Chiu is a Sydney-based freelance illustrator and educator at The University of Technology Sydney.

She is inspired by her love of children's picture books, indie comics, horror movies and good stories.



shireentaweel.com

Shireen Taweel is a multimedia installation artist whose work explores her cultural heritage, knowledge and identity.

4A KIDS is a 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art project connecting kids with contemporary Asian and Asian Australian contemporary art, culture and ideas. All activities are commissioned from artists and each 4A KIDS kit has activities for kids ranging from 5-17 (and beyond!) Want more? Visit 4a.com.au

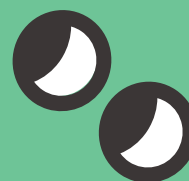
All artworks and images in 4A KIDS are featured courtesy of the artists, with additional imagery provided under creative commons. 4A KIDS is for educational use only and is a free product produced by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. Visit 4a.com.au to find more 4A KIDS, art and stories. Shireen Taweel's profile picture is by Jacquie Manning.



Lets Make Fun Characters with Freda Chiu

Hello there and welcome!

For this activity, we are going to make simple characters.



But before we get our hands dirty, what is a character?

A character is a person, animal, object or creature that can think, feel or act and are used in a story.

Some are 3D
like what you might
see in your favourite
Pixar cartoons



Image: Toy Story



Image: Shaun Tan

Some
are highly
detailed!

Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

And some are simple,
using only a few lines
and shapes!



Image: Mr Chicken, Leigh Hobbs

Regardless of style, memorable characters share something in common.

They have characteristics that make them **UNIQUE** – the shape of their body, the way they stand and walk, their attributes, their facial expressions and more!

All this visual information gives our audience a clue of what the character is thinking or feeling and a glimpse into their lives.

You don't need to make a complicated character for a story to work.

I'll show you how using just a few lines, shapes and squiggles on a page!

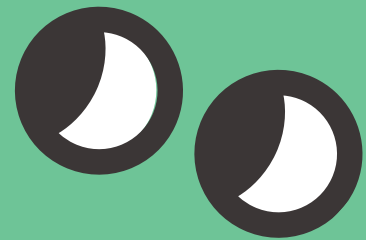
**Let's get
started!**

Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

What you'll need

1. Whatever art supplies you can get your hands on. If possible, try to get a variety of wet and dry mediums - watercolour, acrylic paint, crayons, coloured pencils, oil pastels etc
2. Drawing paper (you may use coloured paper too, if you wish)
3. Scissors
4. Glue stick



TIP!

If you don't have paint, no stress!
You can use coloured pencils and shade in the shapes, or you can use outline without colouring them.

MAKING FACES:

Step 1

Using watercolour or acrylic paint, make some simple shapes on an A4 page without thinking too much.

Get a variety of shapes in there - rectangles, circles, triangles, oblongs ...maybe some weird blobby shapes too?

You can vary the size of the shapes.



Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

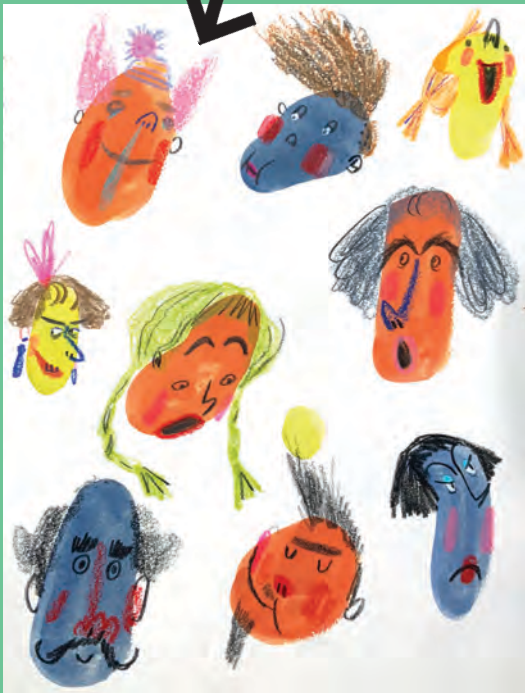
Step 2

Now, let's make some faces!

On each shape, draw a set of eyes (two eyes, three eyes? It's up to you), a nose and a mouth. Don't worry about realistic proportions of a human face - we're here to use our imagination. Vary the size and shape of the eyes as well as the distance between them.

Think about where you place the eyes too - Drawing eyes at the top of the head compared to the bottom will create a completely different expression!

Do the same thing for the nose, mouth and ears. Now, how about some hair and accessories like glasses or a top hat? Try to make each face look different to the others and vary the angle which they're facing.



MAKING BODIES: Step 1

Time to make some bodies!

Get some sheets of paper and fill them with flat colour or patterns using paint and other materials. You can be loose and messy with your marks.



Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

Step 2

After your painted paper is dry, cut out 3-4 random shapes without thinking too much.



Use glue to stick them onto a sheet of paper!

Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

COMBINE YOUR CHARACTERS:

Step 1

Take a look at your page of faces. Choose your favourite ones and cut them out. Without sticking them down, put your faces over the bodies and test out their placement.

Try to think in terms of shape differences – maybe a small head will look more interesting on a giant body, or a large head on a tiny body?

Or, if you think a particular face matches the “feeling” of a certain body shape (eg. pairing up a sad face with a bent-over shape), trust your gut!

Once you've decided, stick your faces onto the body with glue.



Trust
your gut!



Let's Make Fun Characters

with Freda Chiu

Step 2

Add arms and legs by cutting out another pattern or drawing them with pencil or paint. Think about how the character is holding themselves and expressing their emotions with their hands.

Add details to the clothes like buttons, fur, pockets – anything to make each character unique. Maybe a pompous looking lady would have a leopard fur coat? Or maybe it would be funny if you gave a stern looking man a clown suit!

Now it's time
to add some
details!



Step 3

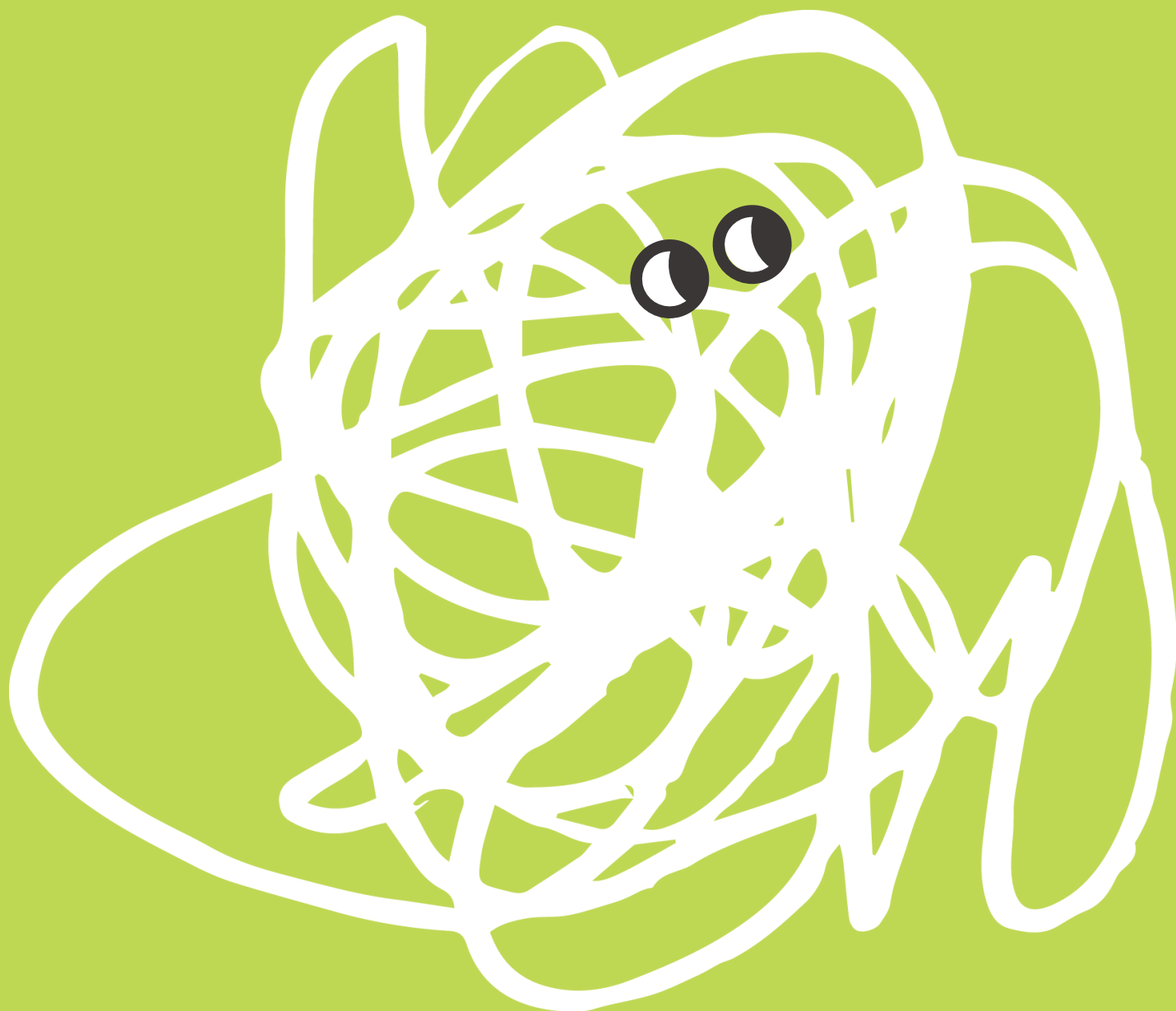
Finally, add some finishing details like an object to hold. When you've finished, why not give your characters a name?

Thanks for letting loose with me and 4A Kids!

Freda Chiu

4A Kids is a project by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art In 2020.
4A Kids is supported by the City of Sydney.

SUPPORTED BY
CITY OF SYDNEY 



Thanks for having fun with 4A KIDS – see you next time
4a.com.au