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**THE WHO'S WHO OF
ARTHUR & FRIENDS**

[**CLICK THIS LINK TO THE
KIDSBILL PROGRAM**](#)



Production developed and
World Premiere presented in
2022 by First Stage –
Jeff Frank, Artistic Director

MEET THE AUTHORS

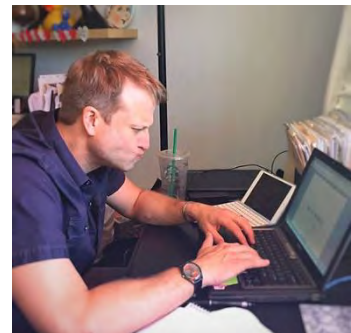
ORIGINAL BOOKS & CHARACTERS: Marc Brown is the author and illustrator of the bestselling Arthur series and executive producer of ARTHUR on PBS. The show has won seven Emmys, the Peabody Award, The 2019 Television Critics Award and is now the longest running children's animated show in history. The Arthur books have sold more than 75 million copies and the show is seen by children all around the world. He is currently working on HOP, a new animated preschool television series and two other television productions based on book collaborations with R.L. Stine.

"When my three sisters and I were growing up near Erie, Pennsylvania, our grandmother Thora told us the most wonderful stories anytime we wanted them. Back then I never dreamed I would grow up to tell stories of my own," says Marc Brown. "But when my first son, Tolon, was born, I started telling him stories every night before he went to sleep. Most of the stories were about animals. One night our story was about an aardvark who hated his nose. The aardvark, of course, was named Arthur, and that story became Arthur's Nose, the first book in the Arthur Adventure series."



What began as a simple family ritual soon grew into a full-time profession for Marc Brown. Trained at the Cleveland Art Institute, he went on to create more than one hundred and thirty picture books for children. Before his current success, Marc worked at many jobs, including stints as a truck driver, soda jerk, actor, chicken farmer, television art director, short order cook, and college professor. Marc is married to psychologist and artist, Laurie Krasny Brown. They have collaborated on the bestselling Dino Life Guides for Families and divide their time between New York City and a small farm on Martha's Vineyard. They have three grown children and two cats on dietary restrictions.

SCRIPT BOOK & LYRICS: John Maclay is a playwright, adaptor, and lyricist whose plays have been produced throughout the United States and Canada. Among his plays and musicals are *GOOSEBUMPS: Phantom of the Auditorium* (with Danny Abosch), *ARTHUR & FRIENDS MAKE A MUSICAL!*, *NATE THE GREAT* and *LITTLE PIGGIE GETS A SISTER* (with Brett Ryback), *THE LEGEND OF ROCK PAPER SCISSORS* (with Eric Nordin), *THE QUEST FOR SOLOMON'S TREASURE*, *GERONIMO STILTON: MOUSE IN SPACE*, *HOPPER*, *NANCY DREW AND HER BIGGEST CASE EVER* (with Jeff Frank), *ANATOLE* (with Lee Becker and James Valcq), and three plays with collaborator Joe Foust: *THE REVOLTING TEENS OF SHERWOOD*, *ROMEO AND JULIET WALK INTO A BAR*, and *APOLLO AND THE TRIALS OF HERCULES*. John additionally serves as a Resident Playwright for First Stage in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is a proud member of both Actors Equity and the Dramatist Guild. John currently lives outside Chicago with his family and their soft-coated Wheaten terrier. For more visit <https://www.johnmaclay.com/>



BUT WAIT ... THERE'S MORE ...

MUSIC & LYRICS: Brett Ryback is an actor, composer/lyricist, and writer. He is the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation's Cole Porter Award. His musical podcast "In Strange Woods" hit #1 on Apple's fiction chart and was an iHeartRadio Award nominee for "Best Fiction Podcast." Works for the stage include: *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical!* (First Stage); *Passing Through* (Goodspeed); *Nate the Great* (Licensed by TRW); *Free Speech Zone* (Austin Film Festival Semifinalist); *Joe Schmoe Saves the World* (NAMT, ASCAP/Dreamworks Workshop);



and *Liberty Inn* (LA Ovation Award nomination, Best Music/Lyrics). His award-winning plays *Weird* and *A Roz By Any Other Name* are both published in "The Best American Short Plays 2007-2008." As an actor he originated the role of Marcus Off-Broadway in *Murder for Two* and has performed on film, television, and at theatres across America. He lives in Los Angeles with his husband and their miniature schnauzer, Hilde. Please visit www.brettryback.com.

Gershwin Entertainment is a diversified entertainment production and marketing agency founded by industry veteran Todd Gershwin. Gershwin Entertainment specializes in producing live events and theatrical stage shows, with a focus in family entertainment. Gershwin has developed and produced successful theatrical



productions, concerts and tours

for numerous iconic brands. Current touring projects include A Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Rainbow Rangers, Tony Award winning Broadway hit musical Million Dollar Quartet, American Rhapsody, Here to Stay, and A Night With Janis Joplin. Gershwin's projects have played at numerous leading venues throughout North America including Madison Square Garden, the Hollywood Bowl, Ravinia, Wolftrap, Arena Stage, the Pasadena Playhouse, and Broadway theaters such as the Marriott Marquis, the Lyceum and the Palace. Todd Gershwin's unique experience as an Owner of the iconic George Gershwin music business has included extensive worldwide licensing and brand management experience working on numerous film, theatrical, and publishing projects. For more visit <https://www.gershwinentertainment.com/>

SYNOPSIS OF THE MUSICAL

Arthur discovers he has won the Elwood City picture contest, and his drawing is in the newspaper. His big sister DW is excited about it but Arthur explains he doesn't like being the center of attention. DW says that's too bad because he is in a big musical and shows him you, the audience. She calms him by letting him know she is ready to take over and he can just be in the background. All his friends show up to help do the opening song *Elwood City Times* where we discover that Arthur lives in a very nice (and slightly boring) small town.



When Arthur goes to school he is in a perfectly good mood until Mr. Ratburn, his teacher, makes an exciting announcement. The final class project for the year will be a show that they will all write and perform together. Mr. Ratburn will help, and the students decide it should be a musical. Together, they begin to brainstorm how to write a show with the song *Put Your Heart Into It*.

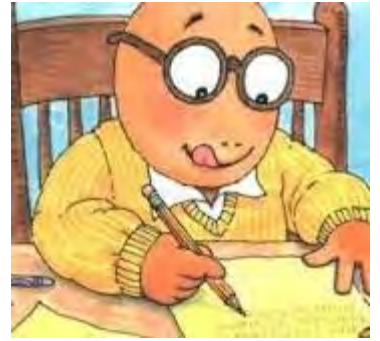
Arthur finds this assignment stressful, and his friend, Brain, begins to talk him through the dramatic structure of a play using Arthur's experience. He started with *Equilibrium*, a calm balanced beginning, but Mr. Ratburn's announcement disrupted that with the *Inciting Incident* of his assignment. Brain explains that now there is *Conflict* so the next thing Arthur will experience is *Rising Action*. Brain warns Arthur to keep his wits about him when he approaches the *Crisis – the Climactic Peak* of his story. Arthur is very worried about the whole harrowing journey that Brain has described.



Arthur's sister DW, unlike Arthur, enjoys creating excitement, starting with her belief in aliens from outer space, which she explains with the song *Something Out There*. Arthur is struggling with what to write for the show because he thinks his life is boring, so he decides to write about his dog Pal during *The Life of a Dog*. He reads his story to DW who is not impressed.

Arthur has his friend Brain read his story, and Brain suggests he needs more research. Mr. Ratburn reads it and explains it's just a first draft, and it takes many drafts to get a good story. His friend Muffy suggests he needs to wear more fashionable clothes to be successful in the song *Dress for Success*. His friend Francine feels the whole project needs more of a social justice angle. His friend Buster says Arthur is just having a crisis of confidence, like the detective in his own story, described in the song *Ulysses Napoleon Baggy pants*.

Arthur decides to combine his friends' advice and write about something exciting like elephants, and not just any elephants, alien elephants as DW suggested, and he's going to use big words like Brain does, and make it into a song like Francine does – he's ready! Arthur returns at the end of his writing – in very interesting clothes – and tells his family about his great story *Planet Schelliphant*.



In school, all the students start to share what they've written for the project with Mr. Ratburn, and Francine performs her song, *Agent Three Fifty-Five*. Mr. Ratburn is very impressed! As he decides the order of the program, Mr. Ratburn thinks Francine's big number should go last, like a grand finale. He decides Arthur's story will go first, as a peaceful introduction. He leaves it up to Arthur to choose the writing he likes best, but he lets Arthur know he liked the first gentle story very much. Arthur weighs the two options in the song *Worrying*.

Frustrated with the decision, Arthur asks Mr. Ratburn if he can just skip performing either story and hand out programs instead. Mr. Ratburn says he must go through with one of the two performances, the decision is final. Arthur explains his worries to his friends, and after Brain leads them all in a mindfulness exercise, Arthur is more relaxed but still can't decide which story to use, so he runs the problem by his parents. His parents insist Arthur is interesting all by himself in the song *Undeniable*.



The day of the big show comes, and you'll have to come and see the show to discover what Arthur decides, but let's just say, he makes a great choice!

BRAINY WORDS

Check out these vocabulary words the Brain uses in the show, then try your hand at the crossword puzzle on the next page!

JUBILANT: Super-duper happy! The most joyous!

TRIUMPHANT: The absolute winner of all the things!

EXULTING: Bowing to the royalty of the task.

COMPATRIOT: Good friend in troubled times 😊

EQUILIBRIUM: When everything is balanced, cool and smooth, chill.

THEME: The mood, the pattern, the general idea of a story.

INCIDENT: Ooops ... something happened ... and it may cause other happenings.

CONFLICT: A problem or argument between two things or people.

CRISIS: The problem at its breaking point – you're gonna snap!

CLIMACTIC: The most exciting part!

ADEQUATELY: Done according to directions – okay – good enough – fine.

REQUIRED: You have to – no way out.

MESOZOIC: 250-66 Million Years ago! The age of reptiles!

SPECIFIC: Just exactly something.

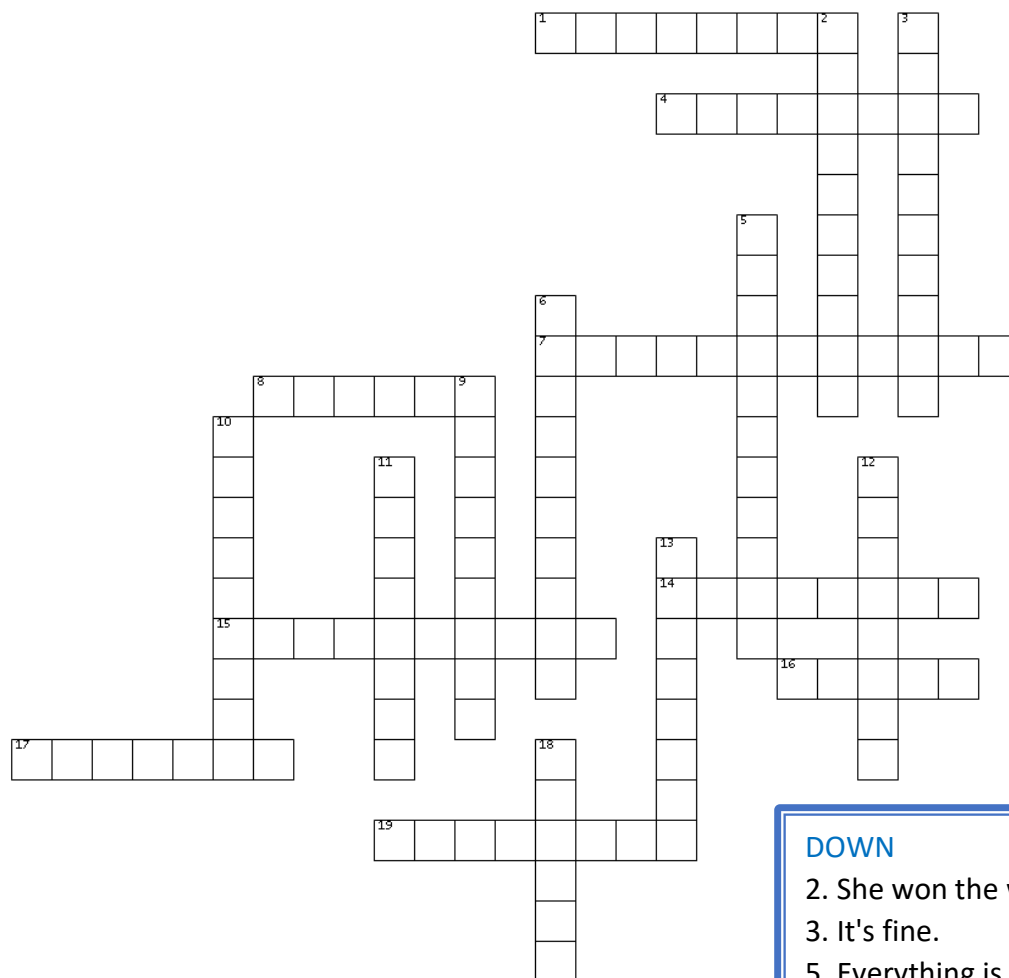
ELABORATE: Complicated ... a lot ... making a bunch of pieces so it's ... a lot.

RESOLUTION: How it all turns out.

TRAGIC: When it doesn't turn out well.

OCCASIONALLY: From time to time ... sometimes.

EVOLVES: Changing to meet new needs ... growing and getting better at whatever comes your way.



ACROSS

1. He was so happy!
4. You have to!
7. Sometimes.
8. This is not a happy ending.
14. You are the absolute queen of math!
15. Let's finish this up now.
16. The ____ of the story was holidays.
17. We can grow and adapt for our needs.
19. Just exactly so.

DOWN

2. She won the whole thing!
3. It's fine.
5. Everything is balanced and going fine.
6. You are a good friend in these difficult times!
9. This is the most exciting part!
10. This is a lot!
11. Well, this is a problem.
12. A thing happened and it's not so good.
13. Millions of years ago when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.
18. I'm gonna snap!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



THERE ARE 102 ARTHUR BOOKS BY MARC BROWN.

THIS MUSICAL WAS INSPIRED BY *ARTHUR WRITES A STORY*

[Read Along with Arthur Writes a Story](#) (9 minutes) from *Reading Pioneers*

Arthur (Readers)

Arthur's Reading Race
Arthur Tricks the Tooth Fairy
Arthur's Fire Drill
Arthur's Lost Puppy
Arthur's First Kiss
Arthur and the School Pet
Arthur Lost in the Museum
Arthur's Classroom Fib
Arthur in New York
Arthur's Reading Trick

Arthur Adventures

Arthur's Best Friends
Arthur's Nose
Arthur's Eyes
Arthur's April Fool
Arthur's Halloween
Arthur Goes to Camp
Arthur's Thanksgiving
Arthur's Christmas
Arthur's Tooth
True Francine
Arthur's Baby
Arthur's Valentine
Arthur's Teacher Trouble
Arthur's Birthday
Arthur Meets the President
Arthur's Pet Business
Arthur Babysits
Arthur's Family Vacation
Arthur Goes to School
Arthur's TV Trouble
Arthur's New Puppy
Arthur's Chicken Pox
Glasses for D.W.

Arthur Writes a Story

Arthur's Neighborhood
Arthur's First Sleepover
Arthur's Valentine's Day
Arthur's Computer Disaster

Arthur and the True Francine
Arthur on the Farm
Arthur's Boo-Boo Book
Arthur Lost and Found
Arthur Decks the Hall
Arthur's Really Helpful
Bedtime Stories
Arthur at School
Arthur Goes Shopping
Arthur In A Pickle
Arthur, Clean Your Room!
Arthur's Underwear
Arthur's New Baby Book
Arthur's Valentine
Countdown
Arthur's Family Treasury
Arthur's Teacher Moves In
Arthur's Perfect Christmas
Arthur's Truck Adventure
Arthur's Hiccups
Arthur's Easter Activity Book
Arthur's Friendship Treasury
Arthur's Back-to-School
Surprise
Arthur, It's Only Rock 'n' Roll
Arthur's Science Fair Trouble
Arthur's Heart Mix-up
Arthur's Jelly Beans
Arthur's Birthday Surprise
Arthur's Homework
Arthur's off to School
Arthur and the New Kid
Arthur's Mystery Babysitter
Arthur Breaks the Bank
Arthur Helps Out
Arthur and the Big Snow
Arthur and the Dog Show
Arthur Loses a Friend
Arthur to the Rescue
Arthur Jumps into Fall
Arthur's Tree House

Arthur's Spookiest
Halloween
Arthur Turns Green
Arthur and the Baby
Arthur Tells a Story

Arthur Chapter Book

3 – Arthur Makes the Team
5 – Arthur Accused!
6 – Locked in the Library!
21 – Arthur and the Perfect
Brother
30 – Arthur and the Bad-Luck
Brain
31 – Arthur Loses His
Marbles
32 – Arthur and the Nerves
of Steal
33 – Arthur and the World
Record

D.W. Adventures

D.W. All Wet
D.W. Flips!
D.W. Thinks Big
D.W. Rides Again!
D.W. the Picky Eater
D.W., Go to Your Room!
D.W.'s Lost Blankie
D.W.'s Library Card
D.W.'s Guide to preschool
D.W.'s Perfect Present
D.W. The Big Boss
D.W.'s Guide to perfect
Manners
D.W. Goes to Preschool
D.W. Says Please and Thank
You

NOW CASTING

EXCELLENT AUDIENCE MEMBERS!



Congratulations!

The director has cast YOU in the IMPORTANT role of...

BEST AUDIENCE MEMBER EVER!

Like Arthur and his friends, putting on a show takes a lot of work – so rehearse your part of this musical – it's the most important role!

1. When the lights go down that's your cue to be silent and get focused – not to scream and yell like in a sporting event.
2. **CELL PHONES OFF!!!** No texting, phone calls, recording, photography, or shining screens are permitted during any performance!
3. Let the actors do the talking and you do the listening – after all, they got a script ahead of time and memorized all those lines. It's much easier to listen if you aren't speaking yourself 😊
4. Laugh when things are funny and cry when things are sad – Theatre is an art form meant to make the audience feel things so let the emotions begin!
5. Show your appreciation for the cast and crew with your hands not your mouths – shouting is for sports and rock concerts, applause and standing ovations are for theatre .
6. Stay in your seat during the whole show and wait for directions afterward.
7. Leave snacks behind – no food or drink in the seating area except water.

That's it! You're ready to play your part. When we all work together live theatre can be a very special experience. You've got this – you're perfect for this role!

PRE-SHOW LESSON PLANS

AND THE ACCOMPANYING FLORIDA EDUCATION STANDARDS



WITHOUT A WORD

SUBJECT: ELA, ARTS

Have students pre-read *Arthur Writes a Story*. Have the students act out a section from the story without words (pantomime) while it is being read aloud by other students or the Teacher. Next have the students perform the story using improvised (made up) dialogue and movement based on the story’s plot. See if they can imitate Brain’s knowing personality, Arthur’s nervousness, or D.W.’s drama. Discuss how words and movement can tell a story.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: R.1.1, R.1.2, R.1.3, R.3.1, R.3.2, ELA.C.2.1, V.1.3, ELA.K.C.2

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.A.1.2.1., FL.TH.B.1.2, TH.E.1.2.3

THE CHANGING PLAY

SUBJECT: ELA, ARTS

Using a sentence or nursery rhyme, place emphasis on different words to change the meaning of the piece. How many different ways can you say: Yes, No, Maybe? Read a short poem or story out loud changing your expressions each time. Try it softly, creepily, comically, etc. Ask the children to react to the story as though they were watching it in a theatre and observe how a performer and an audience change with the style of the play.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: R.1.1, R.1.2, R.1.3, R.1.4, R.3.1, R.3.2, R.3.4, C.2.1, V.1.2, V.1.3

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.D.1.2.4, TH.E.1.2.3

FEELINGS

SUBJECT: ELA, SEL/HEALTH, ARTS

Have the students sit or stand in a circle. Each student should say their name, a word that describes their immediate feeling, and add an abstract gesture to represent that feeling. The next person in line repeats the feeling, word, and gesture of the previous person, and then takes their turn adding their immediate feeling and adding an abstract gesture as before. Continue around the circle until everyone has created and expressed everyone else’s feelings and gestures. Discuss empathy, and how sharing other’s feelings helps us all.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: R.3.1, C.2.1, V.1.3

FLORIDA SEL/HEALTH STANDARDS: RESILIENCE BUILDING, EMPATHY

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.D.1.2.4, TH.E.1.2.1, TH.E.1.2.3

ARTHUR IS AFRAID

SUBJECT: ELA, SEL/HEALTH, ARTS

Have students write a story of a time when they were afraid to do something because they didn’t know how but practiced a little at a time and mastered the task, thereby overcoming the obstacle of “not knowing”. Use guiding questions to elicit details and descriptions. Time, place, people, challenge, outcome, etc.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: ELA.K.C.1.2

FLORIDA SEL/HEALTH STANDARDS: RESILIENCE BUILDING, EMPATHY

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.C.1.2.2, TH.D.1.2.2, TH.E.1.2.3

MOOD MUSIC

SUBJECT: MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS

Play this demo of the song [Worrying by Brett Ryback](#) from *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical*. Have them close their eyes as they listen and try to “feel” the music. Either during or afterward ask questions: What colors did you see or think of as the music played? Did you see smooth, flowing curves or irregular, choppy lines? Ask the students to create a drawing while listening to the music. Encourage them to move their drawing arm and body to the movement and rhythm of the music. Finally have them share their work and explain the results.

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: MU.B.2.2.2, FL.MU.D.1.2, TH.E.1.2.2, TH.E.1.2.3, VA.A.1.2.1, FL.VA.B.1.2

POST-SHOW LESSON PLANS

AND THE ACCOMPANYING

FLORIDA EDUCATION STANDARDS



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE & HOW

SUBJECT: ELA

After seeing *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical*, re-tell, write, draw, or act out some of the scenes that were in the musical. Afterward, answer the following questions: Who were the main characters in the scene? What was the problem or conflict? Describe where the scene took place? How did the characters react to the problem?

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: R.1.1, R.1.2, R.1.3, C.1.2, C.2.1, C.5.1, V.1.3

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

SUBJECT: ELA, ARTS

After watching *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical*, divide into groups and have each group gather five everyday objects and create a short play or scene that includes all five things. The objects may be used as something different than what they are, for instance a hat could be a bowl. Make sure that each scene has a clear beginning (exposition), middle (problem or conflict), and ending (resolution). For older more advanced students use Freitag's Pyramid of Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Denouement.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: ELA.C.1.2

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.A.3.2.2, FL.TH.B.1.2

RE-TELL THE STORY

SUBJECT: ELA, SEL/HEALTH

After watching *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical* have one or more students lead a class discussion of the main events of the plot in order, characters in the show, each character's important moments, and what the characters' relationships were with one another. For instance, Arthur is very susceptible to ideas and criticisms from others, how does that affect his self-confidence? Discuss how other people's opinions can change your choices.

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: R.3.2, ELA.C.1.2, ELA.C.2.1

FLORIDA SEL/HEALTH STANDARDS: RESILIENCE BUILDING, EMPATHY

WALK IN MY SHOES

SUBJECT: ELA, ARTS, SEL/HEALTH

After seeing *Arthur and Friends Make a Musical*, have individual students or groups of students re-tell the story from a particular character's point of view. Assign different characters to different students or groups. Have the class note how the story differs depending on whose perspective is shared. How would Brain tell the story of Arthur's crisis of confidence? How would Mr. Ratburn tell it?

FLORIDA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS: ELA.C.2.1, R.1.3

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: TH.C.1.2.3

FLORIDA SEL/HEALTH STANDARDS: RESILIENCE BUILDING, EMPATHY

SPIRIT DRAWING

SUBJECT: ARTS, SEL

Discuss the quality of different characters' spirits – their strengths, weaknesses, personalities, and the way they see the world and conquer challenges. Have the students create a symbolic or metaphoric abstract drawing that represents one of the character's spirits. Allow students time to share their drawings and the reasoning behind their symbolism.

FLORIDA ARTS STANDARDS: VA.B.1.2.3.4.1, VA.B.1.2.1.4.2

FLORIDA SEL/HEALTH STANDARDS: RESILIENCE BUILDING, EMPATHY

[LINK TO MARC BROWN STUDIOS WITH MANY OTHER FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES!](#)