

LITTLE BIT OF YOU, LITTLE BIT OF ME

Goal: to explore how to create a character and how to bring it to life on stage.

Objectives: Students will...

- Create a design for a fictional character that represents personal qualities.
- Create a theatrical design for a character.

Materials:

- Paper
- Markers
- “A Little Bit of You” music track from *Frozen*
- Music playing device
- “Costume Design Template” handout

Introduction

In *Frozen*, sisters Anna and Elsa work together to create Olaf, a friendly snowman and playmate, who embodies qualities of each sister.

Main Activity:

Play the first 60 seconds of “A Little Bit of You” from *Frozen: The Broadway Musical* (Original Broadway Cast Recording). Ask your student to consider what they heard and share how they think Olaf represents both Anna and Elsa. What qualities did each sister imbue him with?

Next, ask your student to write down characteristics of their own personality. Invite students to create their own creature that, like Olaf, should embody characteristics. Encourage students to begin by considering something they both like as a starting point (e.g. a tennis ball if they enjoy playing tennis).

After allowing some time for students to brainstorm, challenge them to find a way to bring their creature to life onstage. Facilitate a brief discussion for how they might bring Olaf to life onstage (an actor in a costume, a puppet, etc.). Instruct students to decide how their character will manifest onstage. Provide the “Costume Design Template” for students to create their design plan.

Reflection

Facilitate a brief discussion using the following prompts:

- How did your qualities manifest in the character you created?
- How did you determine whether your character would be costumed or a puppet?
- What considerations do you think directors and designers have when making such decisions?

Variations:

OLDER: If you are working with older students, challenge the student to write a design concept statement for the reflection. Consider extending the lesson and allow students to bring their design to life using a variety of materials: fabric for costumes, paper and rods for puppets, etc.



COSTUME DESIGN TEMPLATE



Now that you have brainstormed an original creature with your partner that represents both of your characteristics, design how your character will manifest onstage using the template below.

