Lesson Plan: **Character**

Overview: Students will design an original villain character and complete a model sheet and backstory for their character.

"I AM" Poem:
Writing & Voice Recording

Character Sketch:
Artmaking

Villain Origin Story:
Writing

ArtsMatter

LA PROMISE FUND

Vocabulary:

Character	Emotion	Hero	Exaggerate	Silhouette
Point of view	Expression	Villain	Proportion	Color Scheme
Voice Modulation			Symmetry	Asymmetry

Essential Questions:

- How does a character's design reflect his or her personality and traits?
- How can a character express emotion?
- How does a character's backstory impact his or her actions?

Videos from Paramount Professionals:

- Character Designer: David Colman
- Character Modeler: Paulette Emerson
- Casting Director: Monika Mikkelsen

Introduction:

Many colorful characters populate Bikini Bottom, each with a unique personality and point of view. SpongeBob Squarepants and his friends have been loved by fans for 20 years. Great characters make a big impression because artists thoughtfully design the way they look to evoke emotions in the viewer. Now it's your turn to join the action by creating your own villain character to join SpongeBob's story!

Lesson 1:

Video:
Trailer for SpongeBob Squarepants: Sponge On The Run

Discussion Question:
How does a character's design reflect his or her personality and traits?

Character Design Instruction:
How will your design reflect the villain's personality? Are they soft and round like goofy Patrick? Or lean and grumpy like wiry Squidward? Plankton's big red eye is bizarre and his heavy eyebrow makes him look devious. You can **exaggerate** certain features to create an expressive and engaging character.

A character's design can reflect where they come from, for example Sandy Cheeks has to wear a helmet because she's from the surface and can't breathe underwater. When designing your character consider if they come from somewhere hot or cold? Warm tropical ocean or frigid arctic environment? What do other creatures from that environment look like? Do they have scales, feathers or fur?

Crafting an iconic character requires artists to consider **silhouettes.** Could audiences instantly recognize this character even if it was all colored in black and only the outline was visible? A dynamic silhouette is much more engaging than a blobby lump.

Character designers spend a lot of time on this step. Experiment with a few versions of your character until you land on the design that is most exciting, silly and fun!

Video: Character Designer: David Colman

"I Am" Poem and Character Sketch

Download here.

- Writing activity to brainstorm character's backstory
- These drawings can be completed by hand and uploaded or digitally using Sketchpad, Adobe Spark or Google Drawings
- Encourage students to draw the character however they can

Lesson 2:

Video:

Character Modeler: Paulette Emerson

Discussion Question:

How can a character express emotion?

Download the Create: Character Model Sheet here.

Animation teams use character model sheets to standardize the appearance and expressions of their characters. Show the team what your villain looks like from the front, side and back. Next illustrate your character expressing different emotions. These drawings can be completed by hand or digitally using Sketchpad, Adobe Spark or Google Drawings.

Download the Peer Review Worksheet here.

Lesson 3:

Discussion Question:

How does a character's backstory impact his or her actions?

Download the Writing Activity: Origin Story here.

Students will practice perspective and empathy by writing an origin story for an original character that reveals how they became a villain.

Lesson 4:

Video:

Casting Director: Monika Mikkelsen

Discussion Question:

What do voices contribute to a character's personality?

Activity

Record your reading of the "I Am" Poem in your villain's voice!

Download the Art Extension: Model Sheet here.

Create a model sheet for your character as a baby:

In *SpongeBob Squarepants, Sponge On The Run* we get to see baby versions of our favorite SpongeBob characters. Create a model sheet for your character as a baby.

    Proportion: Big eyes, big head, small body
    Hair: Babies usually have less hair on their heads
    Features: Small nose and mouth, light eyebrows

Design a Color Scheme:

What are the best color choices for your characters? How can you enhance the emotional impact of your story? Add color to your model sheets to enhance the character's personality. How will the colors change to reflect your character's different emotions?

Standards:

Social Emotional Learning Competency:

Social Awareness.3A: Individual demonstrates empathy for other people's emotions, perspectives, cultures, languages and histories.

Media Arts:

MA:Cr1.1.4
Conceive of original artistic goals for media artworks using a variety of creative methods such as brainstorming and modeling.

MA:Cr2.1.5
Develop, present and test ideas, plans, models, and proposals for media arts productions, considering the artistic goals for the presentation.

MA:Cr2.1.6
Organize, propose and evaluate artistic ideas, plans, prototypes and production processes for media arts productions, considering purposeful intent.

MA:Cn10.1.5b
Examine and show how media artworks form meanings, situation, and cultural experiences, such as news and cultural events.

English Language Arts:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3.E
Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.B
Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.4
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience