Lesson 5 | Emoji Alert! & Sticks n’ Stones

_Empire State Creates: Teaching Artist-Led Activities for Everyone_

**Project Title:** (Sub)Cultural Comix  
**Age(s):** High School

**Time:** Video Instruction 10 minutes, Assignment up to 110 minutes (total 120 minutes)

**Arts Discipline:** Visual Art / Illustration

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### ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

**Goal(s):**
I want students to not only express emotion and body language in their drawing, but as they learn to draw the greatly simplified but powerful gestures, to gain an understanding of what socio-emotional cues look like so they can respond to them.

Facial expression and body language are huge communicators of the emotions of others and are necessary for social awareness. Understanding peoples’ cues can help make students make decisions and build relationships. During the pandemic, so many High Schoolers missed in-person interactions for a year—this could help build their recognition of social cues and make video learning very useful in any instance of reduced interaction—which is a response to the trajectory of including asynchronous education to broaden learning options, especially for the disabled and elder population post-pandemic.

I will demonstrate in the video how easily a stick figure and Emoji-head can become an expressive, engaging character that conveys meaning—all the symbols needed to read the expression are in 7 lines for the face (draw a smiley face, then try other shapes with the four lines) and a 15-lined socketed (the “stones” are the joints represented by circles) stick figure that is the armature for a complex, proportionate, posable human body with body language that propels the meaning of the character’s thoughts and emotions. A word balloon or thought bubble is added enhancing this very direct approach to socio-emotional awareness, adhering closely to the SEL goal.

- I will teach an expressive portrait and figure lesson through Emojis and Stick figures (iconography and gestures)—I will create expressions in the face and body language using simple emojis and stick figures which can be built upon to create full-fledged characters (demo, presentation & handouts).
- Simple Perspective lesson is provided in the handout and quickly reviewed in the video to place figures.
- This will give the skills to transfer rough images in the layout to full sized comic pages (1-3 days to pencil, ink and color a final page depending on complexity)
### Materials:
Blank paper or sketchbook
Pencil
Black Pen (optional)
Markers or color pencils (optional)
Final Comic Papers (Bristol or Rendr Marker Paper optional)

### New Word(s)
Gestures, iconography, proportion, perspective, foreshortening

### NYS Arts Learning Standards (select no more than 2 - student audiences only)
VA:Cr1.1HSI

### STEPS

| Step #1          | Emoji Expression Demo (Emoji only)  
|                 | Sticks n’ Stonres Proportion and gesture depo (Stick Figure only)  
|                 | Facial proportion Demo (C3P-0 Droid only)  
| Step #2          | “Pencil” by doubling the stick figure lines  
| Step #3          | “Ink”  
|                 | “Erase” the emoji and Stick Figure Guide  
|                 | “Color”  
| Step #4          | Show simple settings and with perspective  

### Activity Modifications (as needed):